

Special Essex Board of Education meeting held on June, 25, 2013

Board members in attendance: Lon Seidman, Chair, Jeff Burzin, Adam Conrad, Judie McCann, Loretta McCluskey

Also present: Dr. Ruth Levy, Garth Sawyer, Scott Jeffries, Joel Marzi, Norm Needleman, Tom Fitzgerald, Representatives from Southern Ct. Gas

Meeting was called to order at 8:00pm

This meeting followed a public presentation by the Southern Connecticut Gas Company on the benefits of converting Essex Elementary School to natural gas.

General discussion on the costs to convert existing system to natural gas. Concerns were discussed as related to the timeline for establishing costs and implementation of conversion.

Mr. Needleman explained the process for approval being the Board of Education would vote to recommend advancing to the Board of Selectman, who would then present to the Board of Finance for funding.

Dr. Levy addressed the importance of the work at the school be completed by mid August.

Discussion of the need for Southern Ct. Gas to secure three major clients to move forward with pipeline. At present time the Lee Company has signed and talks are underway with Essex Meadows.

Mr. Seidman expressed concern that the town would be committing to converting to gas with no assurances that it would occur if Essex Meadows did not proceed.

Discussion on the importance of obtaining an accurate estimate of cost to present to Board of Finance.

Mr. Marzi noted that the contract should include a clause which makes the agreement contingent on voter approval as sinking fund request must be voted upon.

Motion was made and seconded for the EES Board of Education to recommend the investigation of the costs associated with converting to natural gas. Additionally, the town of Essex should be the final party, of the three needed, to sign contract.

Motion made and seconded to adjourn meeting at 8:35pm.