

**Town of Montville Town Council
Special Meeting Minutes for September 14, 2009
6:30 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers
Town Hall**

1. **Call to Order** – Chairperson Buebendorf called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call** – Present were Councilors Beetham, Buebendorf, Caron, Geary, Murphy and Radgowski. Absent was Councilor Jones. Also present were Attorney Bruce Chudwick and Mayor Jaskiewicz.

4. **New Business**

a. **To consider and act on a motion to hear a presentation by NRG regarding a proposed plan within the Town of Montville.** Motion made by Councilor Geary, seconded by Councilor Caron. Discussion: Chairperson Buebendorf stated the regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council begins at 7:00 p.m. and she asked the representatives of NRG to plan their presentation accordingly. Voice vote: 6-0. all in favor, motion carried.

Jon Baylor, Manager of Development for NRG Energy, Inc., Raymond Long, Vice President of Government Affairs and Jonathan Gordon, Manager of External Affairs were present to discuss the Montville Station Biomass Project with the public. Jon Baylor began the presentation, stating the Montville Biomass project will provide up to 40 megawatts of clean, renewable power, equivalent to enough power to support over thirty thousand homes. Currently the Montville Station is a two unit 500 megawatt plant fueled by natural gas and oil. Biomass is an organic plant matter that can be used as fuels to produce energy or heat. The types of biomass fuels proposed for use include forestry residues such as wood remaining after normal harvesting activities, tree trimmings from line clearings and trimmings from local communities and clean, recycled wood such as untreated wood residues from pallet or mill activities. Montville will require up to four hundred thousand tons per year and it has been determined there is one million tons of greenwood per year within a one hundred mile fuel shed of Montville. This project is designed to enhance Unit #5, currently an eighty two megawatt steam generation unit fueled by natural gas and #6 oil, and to switch to the use of clean wood biomass as the primary fuel source. The wood source for the biomass fuel is from local timber and forestry professionals, adding jobs to the local and regional economy. This facility will contribute to Connecticut's goal of 20% renewable power by 2020. This project is expected to begin producing renewable energy by mid 2011. In addition to maintaining the long term economic viability of the Montville Station, NRG's Montville Biomass Project will create seventy five construction jobs during the twelve month period the site is under construction. The project will result in an increase in local property tax revenues over the current property tax revenues. To support the fuel needs of the project, additional jobs will be created in the regional forestry and transportation industry. This project could potentially support up to two hundred jobs within the Connecticut economy. In 1998 the State of Connecticut passed a Renewable Portfolio Standard that established a goal of having 20% of all power come from renewable resources by 2020. The majority of the renewable power is required to come from Class I resources, which includes hydro, fuel cell, wind, solar and biomass. The Montville Biomass will be designed to meet the criteria for a Class I renewable resource by using clean wood biomass from local forestry and timer resources. NRG will retrofit the existing equipment on Unit #5 to utilize clean wood biomass as its primary fuel source with the capability of generating up to 40 megawatts of clean, renewable energy. By running on ultra low sulfur liquid fuel or natural gas, the project will still be able to generate at full eighty two megawatts, enough to support over sixty five thousand homes. Nitrogen oxides emission controls will be added to Unit #5 to reduce the Nitrogen oxide emissions rate up to seventy five percent. Construction is expected to begin in mid 2010 and last up

to twelve months with a peak total of seventy five on site construction jobs. NRG will look to procure biomass from local Connecticut resources, including State foresters, to power the Montville Biomass Project. NRG hopes to help the State of Connecticut to meet its goal of 20% renewable power by the year 2020. This project will maintain the viability of the Montville Station by ensuring fifteen or more years of continuing operations and increase the long term investment in the station. This project will be the cleanest biomass facility in New England. The proposed delivery route for the fuel is from Route 395 onto Route 163, cross over to Route 32 to Depot Road to Lathrop Road to the NRG Montville plant entrance. There will be approximately four eighteen wheeler trucks per hour six days per week on the proposed route to the plant. A traffic study was done and the study determined the roads are in good condition and can sustain this volume of traffic. He discussed the project timeline and encouraged the Council to support them as they move forward with the permitting.

Chairperson Buebendorf stated there will be approximately forty three trucks traveling on the route to the plant six days per week and has concerns this will not be low impact to the residents that live along the truck route. She inquired if NRG has looked into alternative forms of transportation for delivery of the fuels. Mr. Gordon indicated it is not economically feasible to deliver the fuel by railway or waterway.

Commissioner Geary argued the fact the roadways to the plant are in “good condition” and offered his time to walk along the roads with the representatives of NRG to prove otherwise.

Commissioner Beetham inquired if there would be an overall reduction in the power bills of Montville rate payers once power is sold to the power grid. Mr. Gordon stated there is potential for an overall rate decrease to all of Connecticut residents. Commissioner Beetham inquired if the plant would generate more money for the town in taxes once the plant is upgraded. Mr. Gordon answered the plant is currently paying over three hundred thousand dollars per year and with the improvements it would pay additional taxes, generating more income for the Town of Montville.

Councilor Murphy inquired what would happen to the plant if this project was not approved by the Town. Mr. Gordon indicated the viability of the plant would be in question.

Discussions were held regarding odors involved with the burning of the natural wood. It was determined there would be minimal odor due to extensive odor emissions at the plant.

Mr. Gordon ended his presentation by asking the Council to be supportive in this effort and invited everyone to an open house at the plant for further discussions and to hear remarks from the residents.

Mr. Gordon ended his presentation at 6:55 p.m.

5. **Remarks from the Councilors** – none.

6. **Adjournment**

Motion made by Councilor Geary, seconded by Councilor Radgowski to adjourn the Special Meeting at 6:56 p.m. Discussion: none. Voice vote: 6-0, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Audrey Ulmer, Recording Secretary for the Town of Montville