

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
JANUARY 21, 2020

The Board of Trustees held a public hearing relating to the road opening permit submitted by PSEG to underground overhead transmission lines on the above date at 7:00 p.m., at the Emergency Services Building, 1 Cedar Street, East Hampton.

*Those present were:*

Richard T. Lawler	Mayor
Barbara Borsack	Deputy Mayor
Arthur S. Graham	Trustee
Rosemary G. Brown	Trustee
Rebecca Hansen	Village Administrator
Elizabeth Baldwin	Village Attorney
Ray Harden	Zoning Board of Appeals Member
Joan Osborne	Village Improvement Society
Vincent Frigeria	PSEG-LI Representative
Dan & Yvonne Ujvari	Visitors
Alan Court	Visitor
Steven Lynch	Visitor
Andrea Mammano	Visitor
James McMullan	Visitor
Larry Kane	Visitor
Lynn Brown	Visitor
Chris Corwin	Visitor
Peter Turino	Visitor
Virginia Hessler	Visitor
John Geehreg	Visitor
Chris Kelley	Visitor
Ray Harden	Visitor
Gerard Larsen	Visitor
Danielle Koyles	LTV
Virginia Garrison	East Hampton Press
Jamie Bufalino	East Hampton Star
June E. Lester	Secretarial Assistant

The public hearing was held pursuant to Village Code Chapter 250 whereby PSEG Long Island has submitted a road opening permit application that includes the installation of a riser pole on Cooper Lane to facilitate the installation of underground transmission lines on nearby McGuirk and King Streets.

PSEG -LI representative Vincent Frigeria said the utility had agreed to install an underground cable, but would need the village board's approval by January 31<sup>st</sup> in order to have the project completed this year. He added that burying the lines would allow the utility to remove two poles, and reduce the height of about 23 others by five to seven feet. In order to bury transmission lines PSEG would need to install a "riser pole" to transition them underground. The proposed location of the oversized pole would be directly in front of Dan and Yvonne Ujvari at 51 Cooper Lane.

Christopher Kelley, Esq. representing over twenty residents of Cooper Lane, addressed the Board to voice strong opposition to the proposed installation. Mr. Kelley displayed a photo of the front of the Ujvaris' home with the riser pole superimposed to show how much the pole would loom over their property and Cooper Lane. Mr. Kelley said the installation of the "monster pole" – what the utility company itself calls the oversized poles – would have a negative impact on the value of the Ujvaris' house - up to a 20-percent reduction in their property value. Mr. Ujvari said if the pole is installed it overwhelm their property and destroy their ability to enjoy their home.

Mr. Kelley urged the board to either deny PSEG's application or defer a decision on the project until a more thorough study of its impacts has been undertaken and alternative locations have been explored. A PSEG engineer had recommended placing the riser pole in front of Cedar Lawn Cemetery, farther east on Cooper Lane. That section of the street, however, is in East Hampton Town. Mr. Kelley noted the one person who has the authority to permit or deny such an application in the Town Superintendent of Highways Stephen Lynch.

Town Highway Superintendent and resident of 18 Cooper Lane Stephen Lynch said he had not been aware that a riser pole was being proposed there, was opposed to the proposed location, that there had to be a better solution and he would be willing to meet with PSEG.

Many attendees felt there had been insufficient notice to all the residents in the area and not enough information provided. Chris Corwin of 25 Cooper Lane considered the proposed installation inconsistent with the objective of the village's regulations. James Amaden of 27 Cooper Lane considered the proposed installation dangerous new precedent. Larry Kane also voice strong opposition to the installation and considered the proposal outrageous.

Alan Court of 63 McGuirk Street voiced his opposition to the installation, his displeasure with PSEG for not giving McGuirk Street residents prior notice when the poles were replaced with much larger ones in 2014 and for how PSEG has destroyed many village trees. Mr. Court asked if the poles could be installed along the railroad tracks.

Thirty-year resident of Cooper Lane Peter Turino considered such a pole not appropriate for the small neighborhood and reminded everyone that the area is the site of the annual Halloween celebration. Mr. Turino asked the Board to defer the project and evaluate options. John Geehreg of 39 McGuirk Street also considered the riser pole very inappropriate for the neighborhood. Christine Winter of 46 Cooper Lane opposed the installation of the riser and asked that a better solution be found.

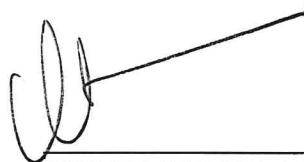
Virginia Hessler of 26 McGuirk Street and Lynn Brown of 53 McGuirk Street were both in favor of the proposal, reiterated that they want the lines buried and the project should move forward. Ms. Hessler added that the proposed installation creates a separate problem on Cooper Lane.

Jerry Larsen voiced his opposition, adding the installation of the larger poles on McGuirk Street and King Street shouldn't have happened. Mr. Larsen felt all the lines should be buried.

Mayor Richard Lawler said if no one else wishes to speak the hearing will be closed but the record would remain open until the end of the day on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> to allow for further comment. Ms. Molinaro said the board, after it has time to weigh all the residents' concerns, will decide whether to grant PSEG permission to begin construction.

With no other business to discuss and upon motion made by Trustee Arthur S. Graham, seconded by Trustee Barbara Borsack and unanimously carried, the special meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

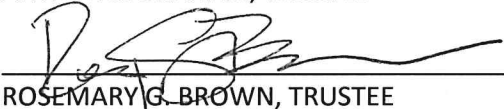
(APPROVED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES ON FEBRUARY 21, 2020)

  
REBECCA HANSEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD

  
RICHARD T. LAWLER, MAYOR

  
BARBARA S. BORSACK, DEPUTY MAYOR

  
ARTHUR S. GRAHAM, TRUSTEE

  
ROSEMARY G. BROWN, TRUSTEE