

Trustee Kane provided an information packet to the Village Board for review regarding the Pilgrim Pipeline. The proposed bi-directional pipeline will go from Albany to Linden, N.J. following the NYS Thruway and will cross our water supply lines at Riley Road and again at Jackson Avenue. Mr. Kane reported that many municipalities in New York and New Jersey are opposed to the pipeline because it will be used to transport Bakken crude oil which is one of the most explosive crude oils. This Village Board is opposed because the pipeline could interfere with our water supply lines in an accident.

Trustee Kane introduced the following resolution and moved for its adoption.

WHEREAS, Pilgrim Pipeline Company is proposing to build a bi-directional pipeline in close proximity to the NY State Thruway, through Rockland, Orange, Ulster, Greene, and Albany counties that would transport crude oil and refined petroleum products between Albany, New York and Linden, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the pipeline will carry oil from the Bakken Shale region of North Dakota extracted through a process of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” which has been found to contaminate clean water resources, create toxic air emissions and radioactive waste, and release large quantities of methane gas into the atmosphere; and

WHEREAS, in February the Wall Street Journal compared crude oil from 86 locations worldwide, indicates that crude oil from Bakken Shale has a far higher vapor pressure than crude from dozens of other locations, making it the most explosive crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a safety alert on January 2, 2014, to the general public, emergency first responders, and shippers and carriers regarding the particular flammability of Bakken crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the Pipeline will carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil through residential areas in adjacent communities, which will place residents in harm’s way should an explosion or spill occur;

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline is proposed to be laid in the vicinity of and will carry a large volume of Bakken crude oil across the Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson’s water lines which supply drinking water from the Catskill Water Treatment Plant in the vicinity of Riley Rd., as well crossing over the water lines that supply drinking water from the ground wells located off of Jackson Ave. to the residents of Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall on Hudson; and

WHEREAS, according to PHMSA, pipeline operators reported more than 1,000 crude oil spills nationwide between 2003 and 2013, resulting in over 40 million gallons of oil being spilled; and

WHEREAS, a majority of these spills were the result of corrosion, equipment failure, incorrect operation or material and weld failures; and

WHEREAS, according to PHMSA, it has only 139 inspectors and 300 state inspectors to oversee 2.6 million miles of pipeline, and a limited amount of that pipeline system has been inspected by PHMSA or its state partners since 2006; and

WHEREAS, any rupture or compromise of the Pipeline, even without an explosion or fire, will require extraordinary cleanup efforts, could possibly force residents from their homes, and place a large number of residents in close proximity to hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, most residents living near the proposed pipeline depend on ground water and public community water systems for potable water supplies, the integrity and safety of which may be jeopardized by the Pipeline; and

WHEREAS, the Pilgrim Pipeline also threatens important surface water resources along its path; and,

WHEREAS, the Village of Cornwall on Hudson finds that if the proposed Pilgrim Pipeline were compromised, it potentially threatens the water supply system for the Village of Cornwall on Hudson and the Town of Cornwall and subsequently, the health, safety, and welfare of its residents;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Cornwall on Hudson of the State of New York, County of Orange:

1. Calls upon the New York State Thruway Authority to reject use of its right-of-way for the purpose of transporting oil or gas by pipeline; and
2. Calls for a moratorium on any and all planning, proposal, surveying, or construction of the Pilgrim Pipeline through the Town of Cornwall and across and in the vicinity of Village of Cornwall on Hudson owned water supply lines; and
3. Directs the Village Clerk to forward copies of this resolution to the NYS Thruway Authority Chair Joanie Mahoney, NYS DOT Commissioner Matthew Driscoll, U.S. Senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand and U.S. Representative Chris Gibson, Governor Andrew Cuomo, N.Y. Public Service Commission Chairwoman Audrey Zibelman, N.Y. Assembly Member James Skoufis, and N.Y. Senators William Larkin, and NYS DEC Acting Commissioner Marc Gertsman.

The foregoing resolution was seconded by Trustee Carnright and carried upon a vote of 4 Ayes and 0 Nays.

Mayor Coyne reported that he will be sending a letter to Pilgrim informing them that the Village will no longer allow them to conduct a survey on our water properties.

PINE STREET BLOCK PARTY