

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 1980  
3:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman John E. Murray, Anne W. Donald, William J. Cossart, Board of Selectmen; Board of Health Chairman E. Lawrence Gogolin, Health Director John V. Sullivan, Town Counsel Paul L. Kenny, Conservation Commission Chairman Judith Cope; Olga Reed, Planning Board; Thomas Craig, General Manager, Coatings Engineering; Joseph Shepherd, Division of Water Pollution Control; Robert M. Tanzen, William D. Vickers, DEQE, Air Quality Control Section; Edward Kreitsek, Manager, Facilities and Administration, Raytheon Company; Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost; Neal Drawas, Jon Zonderman, Elaine Jones.

Notice having been given, the meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by John E. Murray, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, and began with introduction of those present.

Coatings Engineering Corporation - Pollution Control

Chairman Murray stated that the Board of Selectmen had asked all concerned Town Boards and Commissions to submit any comments or concerns in writing prior to this meeting and was at this time giving Coatings Engineering Corporation a copy of a letter dated July 14 from the Conservation Commission relative to its concerns. The purpose of the meeting with State and local officials present, he stated, is to ascertain the status of water and air pollution control measures pursued by Coatings Engineering.

Mr. Craig stated that Coatings, particularly in the past two years, has been responsive to problems which have occurred, but in order to be so, must be informed when they occur, not months afterward.

Conservation Commission Chairman Cope said that she stood by the letter and had, in response to complaints, brought these matters, some of which have gone on a very long time, to the attention of Coatings Engineering in a timely manner, but expects that they should have, in the spirit of neighborliness, taken measures to prevent such problems.

At Chairman Murray's suggestion, Mr. Craig elaborated on the status of the wastewater control measures now before the DEQE. Mr. Craig stated that the current wastewater treatment is meeting all the DEQE requirements and that two items are on order, a clarifier and a filter press, which should improve the treatment process. At present the iron and zinc levels are being attained through the use of a lagoon for settling. The use of a clarifier will replace this method. The filter press will be used with the clarifier to remove water from the sludge and will also be used to remove the water from the sludge in the lagoon. This sludge, he believes, will be classified as "special" material rather than hazardous material and its disposal means, unknown at the present time, will be in accordance with regulations established for the classification.

In regard to the current smoke problem, Mr. Craig stated that Coatings has been emitting smoke for five years and that late in 1976 a scrubber had been added to reduce the problem; this had been the only change in procedure. He explained that water is sprayed into the air stream to facilitate cleaning with

an electrostatic precipitator; the latter has not worked and is the subject of a law suit. The emission consists of small droplets emitted at approximately 2 lbs/hr, with no measurable vapors. These droplets can be seen and do smell and are in violation of DEQE standards, he stated. Coatings Engineering is in the process of analyzing the particulates to determine how they can be eliminated. Mr. Craig stated that they were not burning PVC, rather that the material emitted was driven off by the process of fusing PVC onto wire and consists of a low-boiling solvent used to disperse PVC.

Relative to the pending NPDES permit, Mr. Shepherd, Division of Water Pollution Control, stated that Coatings Engineering has been issued an unsigned permit which will be signed after plans have been obtained, the process of sludge handling clarified, and receipt of specifications on the pump.

In regard to a timetable, Mr. Craig stated that he believed the clarifier would be working in November before the filter press was operational, although the press was to be delivered August 12.

Mr. Craig stated, in answer to questions relating to treatment of organics, that, in his opinion, organics as a normal solution are OK.

Board of Health Chairman Gogolin disagreed and asked what the chances of organics getting into the water were.

Mr. Craig replied that the water analysis in the past (1976) provided this information; if the current analysis does not provide this information, he will verify that they do not.

Mr. Gogolin asked if there were chances of decomposition going through the process.

Mr. Craig replied that he did not know of any.

Mr. Craig continued, in answer to further questions from Mr. Gogolin, that Coatings Engineering does burn small amounts of PVC when improperly coated, and as to where these emissions go and how they are treated, testing has been done in the past and he does not believe there is a problem; however, he will test again. He explained that on the day in which the complaint was made there was no vinyl burned; when it is burned a different stack is used.

Mr. Tanzen, DEQE Division of Air Pollution Control, stated that relative to the ineffective electrostatic precipitator, the manufacturer has been asked to give Coatings Engineering the information needed without going through litigation. The particle analysis and type of equipment Coatings will use for control will be submitted to the DEQE. The first report on testing is expected at the end of this week and several additional weeks may be needed.

Fire Chief Josiah F. Frost noted that Coatings Engineering has been cooperative with the fire service and that any suggestions made have been followed.

Olga Reed, speaking on behalf of the Planning Board and as former Conservation Commission coordinator for the R.A.D.I.N. Wetlands Protection Act filing, stated that the subdivision has not been completed and on Order of Conditions is outstanding. A prospective buyer would like to complete the drainage ditch but

feared that phenols in the discharge will dissolve any paving; therefore, any alteration of the plan, including flow rate, would be determined by what will be discharged into the ditch. She reiterated the need to know exactly what is contained in the discharge and the desire to have it in writing.

In reply, Mr. Craig stated that no phenols were used in the process and noted that use of phenols ceased three years ago. He continued to say that tests have indicated phenols outside the plant. A 1978 New England Testing Laboratory report on a test of tap water was noted relative to the same.

Mr. Neal Drawas asked both Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Craig questions specifically related to the permit process and the chemical processes used and established that

- the chemical limits used now are acceptable to the State DEQE
- the company can petition for a modification of the permit and must notify the DEQE of any change in the process
- during plant shut-down evaporation and the lack of diluting wastewater flowing into the lagoon may result in a higher concentration of organics which would not constitute a violation of the permit
- there is no monitoring done from the lagoon to water table
- polymers used as a flocculent line the lagoon
- the lagoon has not been pumped in 1½ years.

Mr. Shepherd stated, in answer to Mr. Cossart's question, that the DEQE permit granted to Coatings lists no organics and the items which were listed are those which Coatings appeared to have exceeded and are therefore specified. He verified that tests for organics have been done.

Mr. Craig emphasized that Coatings is meeting or bettering the standards in any case. He added that although the equipment is still there, Coatings no longer uses trichloroethane and that soap and a mild acid are used as a degreaser. MIBK (methylisobutyl ketone) and toluol, both organic chemicals, are used in the system.

Mr. Shepherd stated, in answer to Mr. Cossart, that the DEQE specifications are not specific to a type of activity. There are standards (limits) set by the Federal government for different categories of industries, but these are not specific to the particular industry within a category. Coatings application lists quantities of materials used and these are compared with Federal standards. There is the possibility that certain proprietary chemicals germane to a particular company might not be listed.

Mr. Cossart stated that, in his opinion, the Exxon chemical used should have been noted in the permit application and asked how it could be added to the permit.

Mr. Shepherd stated that the permit could be modified.

Mr. Craig responded that the chemical is already in the permit application.

In reply to Selectman Cossart, Mr. Shepherd stated that he would supply the Town with a copy of the application. He continued to say that when the specifications from Reitzel engineers have been reviewed by the Division of Water Pollution Control, the plans will be finalized and the permit would be approved. The sludge disposal application would be obtained by Coatings Engineering through the Division of Solid Waste.

Mr. Edward E. Krietsek, Manager, Facilities and Administration, Raytheon Company, Sudbury, presented a verbal and written report of an incident occurring on May 21, 1980 during which noxious fumes were transmitted by the wind, presumably from Coatings' stacks, to the northeast corner of Raytheon where they were drawn into the air intake ventilators, causing minor symptoms of illness to occupants of the building who were then sent home. This incident was reported by Raytheon to the Sudbury Board of Health and to Coatings Engineering, and subsequently to the DEQE by the Board of Health. Gas samples were taken by Raytheon at three locations and analyzed by an independent laboratory, revealing no detectable volatile organics in the gas; particulates were not sampled. Photographs were also taken of the stack emissions. It was noted that a data sheet for isopar M, a solvent used by Coatings Engineering which is evaporated into the stacks, had been obtained and describes symptoms resulting from inhalation as reported by sickened Raytheon employees.

Mr. Krietsek stated that the Town, in his opinion, had adequate protection, citing the Zoning Bylaw, Board of Health and Conservation Commission controls, with the added force of the State regulatory agencies. He requested that these agencies evaluate the Coatings Engineering operations and take the proper enforcement steps to see that Coatings Engineering does conform to the established standards.

Mr. Craig voiced his objection, for the record, to the notation in the Raytheon Company report regarding the telephone conversation with him and also to the fact that Raytheon noticed fumes at 10:30 a.m., according to the report, yet waited until late in the afternoon to contact him. He added also that the operation was such that it could be curtailed under the conditions that were current at the time.

Mr. Tanzen, Air Quality Control Section, explained that upon inspection of Coatings Engineering after the incident noted by Mr. Krietsek, deficiencies in the emission control devices were found. Subsequently, a meeting with the Board of Health and Coatings Engineering was held to set a timetable with regard to compliance with the regulations. Air samples were taken for analysis. The consultant is to send plans and recommendations relative to correcting the conditions; these must be reviewed by the DEQE and are expected in the next week. Mr. Tanzen stated that, in his opinion, a realistic approach toward solution of the problem was being pursued by Coatings Engineering.

Chairman Murray thanked all for attending and stated that the Board of Selectmen would continue to coordinate with the Board of Health and other involved agencies on this most important matter, thanking Mr. Craig for his present and anticipated cooperation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Attest:

Richard E. Thompson  
Executive Secretary-Clerk