

OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 10, 2012
Town & Village Hall

The Monthly Meeting of the Oxford Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Lawrence Wilcox at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall for the transaction of such business that may lawfully come before the Board.

Present were:

Supervisor: Lawrence Wilcox
Council: Jerry Locke
 Alan Davis
 Larry Beckwith
 John Hofmann

Town Clerk: James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Highway Superintendent: Timothy Tefft

Absent:

Others Present: Twenty-five residents of the Town of Oxford.

Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:

Alan Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of September 19, 2012. Motion was seconded by Larry Beckwith and carried with 5 Ayes.

Supervisor's Monthly Report:

Supervisor Wilcox handed out the Financial Accounting Information Sheets, Investment and Certificate of Deposit Reports, as of September 30, 2012. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

September 2012

Revenues	\$129,224.57
Appropriations	\$ 44,833.26

Check Book Balances:

General	\$ 10,516.82
Highway	\$254,901.67
T&A	\$ 7,530.59
Payroll	\$ 16,531.55
Water District #1	\$ 1,522.36

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Supervisor Wilcox opened the meeting for public comments and asked if anyone here had anything to bring before the Board that doesn't pertain to gas drilling? They will be given a chance to speak first. Those wishing to speak on the pros and cons of gas drilling were given a total of thirty minutes to express their concerns.

Ron Charles was concerned about the process for getting permits to drill for gas in the Town of Oxford. He stated that hydraulic fracking was not controlled by the State government and there were no regulations on how much water will be affected by such drilling. He said that DEC is allowing low volume fracking or conventional high volume drilling. He feels that stronger local land use regulations are needed for the Town of Oxford.

Several other residents of the Lake Gerry expressed their concerns very similar to the concerns expressed by the anti-fracking group at the September meeting. Many of the concerns were to do with uncertain effects of fracking on water supplies and about what unknown chemicals would be used and the impact on health, land and water.

Letters of concerned were received from Mina Takahashi, Reginald and Janie Edmonds and John Knapp. Vincent Granata submitted a 32-page list of individuals and families that have been harmed by fracking in the US. He also submitted a 43-page document on "The Costs of Fracking" from the Maryland Environment Research & Policy Center. Tammy Reiss (Angle) spoke on behalf of her family and residents of the Town of Oxford in opposition of Horizontal Hydrofracking. Because these letters, etc. require scanning and the scans make the minutes too large for downloading, they are on file in the office of the Town Clerk for the perusal of any resident that may be interested in them.

Supervisor Wilcox spoke to the group in response to their concern that the Town Board hasn't done enough to help protect Oxford in case fracking is allowed and their question about the Town Board's conflicts of interest related to shale-gas development. He stated, as he did at the September meeting, that the Town Board has been working for years on measures that will help protect the Town of Oxford from outside factors harming the land, water and personal property of the residents of Oxford. These measures include the Zoning Regulations which were revised in 2003 and again in 2007. We also have a "Code of Ethics" and a new "Road Use Agreement", to be adopted when finalized, to further enhance the regulations. Supervisor Wilcox also stated that the Planning Board has been given the task of using clearer wording in the zoning regulations concerning gas pipelines and compression stations. He went on to say that the Town Board, over the years, has always voted in favor of those things which are in the best interest of the Town and its residents and we intend to continue this practice.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The September 2012 collateralized deposit account information report was received from BNY Mellon.

Letter received from Time Warner Cable announcing that the cable television service will expire on July 7, 2015. They are seeking renewal of it franchise and requests commencement of renewal proceedings.

Board Councilman Jerry Locke distributed a letter from the Chenango County Department of Planning & Development concerning Natural Gas Well Notification. In an effort to prepare the County, Towns, etc. of any potential disruptions or incidents that may occur as a result of increased natural gas exploration activities, the County Planning & Development Dept. will be sending notification to the various agencies when a natural gas company submits an application to NYSDEC for a drilling permit.

The Town of Oxford Annual Financial Report was received from Oxford Tax Service for the fiscal year ended 12/31/2011. Legal notice will be printed in The Norwich Sun newspaper that the report has been completed and filed with the Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Local Government Services and Economic Development, Albany, NY and on file in the Town Clerk's office for public inspection.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox contacted the County about using the same Company that does their shredding of outdated records and documents for shredding of the Oxford Town records per the *Records Retention and Disposition Schedule MU-1*. The Company will be available for this service during the first week in December, 2012.

The Town Road Use Agreement was reviewed by the Town Board for any corrections, additions, etc. A resolution to approve the Road Use Agreement will be presented at the November 1, 2012 Board meeting.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW

Supervisor Wilcox presented the 2013 Preliminary Town Budget for review. Following the review a motion was made by John Hofmann and seconded by Larry Beckwith to hold the Public Budget Hearing on November 1, 2012, at 7:45 pm in the Village Hall. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The Town Clerk will see that a legal notice for the Public Budget Hearing is published in the Evening Sun newspaper and posted at the Town Office. The Preliminary Budget is on file in the office of the Town Clerk and available for inspection by any interested person during regular office hours.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Highway Superintendent reported that New Virginia Road has been redone where the stone and oil was missing. He also reported that the all the flood pipes have been sealed. Jerry Locke asked about fixing the apron on the South Oxford Bridge. This has been noted and will be taken care of.

BILLS & CLAIMS: September 2012

Claims #157 thru #171, plus payrolls of General Fund:	Total: \$20,458.92
Claims #151 thru #164, plus payrolls of Highway Fund:	Total: \$24,843.41

Motion was made by Larry Beckwith and seconded by Jerry Locke to pay the bills and claims.
Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

The next Town Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1st, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall. This is a change from the regular meeting date.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 9:15 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Town Clerk