

OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 12, 2014
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. The meeting opened with the salute to the flag of the United States of America.

Present were:

Supervisor: Lawrence Wilcox
Council: Jerry Locke
 Alan Davis
 Ron Charles

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

Absent: John Hofmann

Others Present: Stefan Foster, Town Justice John Weidman, Dan Taylor and six other residents.

Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:

Alan Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of January 8, 2014. Motion was seconded by Jerry Locke and carried with 4 Ayes.

Supervisor's Monthly Report:

Supervisor Wilcox handed out the Financial Accounting Information Sheets, Investment and Certificate of Deposit Reports, as of January 31, 2014. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

January 2014

Revenues	673,462.00
Appropriations	91,720.19

Check Book Balances:

General	381,829.96
Highway	392,131.70
T&A	13,693.14
Water District #1	6,570.18

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Stefan Foster gave an updated report on the restoration of the Miller/Beardsley Cemetery, Hoben Road, which contains the tomb of "Little Merrit". Everything is coming along fine and he has written a book on the history of the cemetery, which he intends to have printed at Rapid Reproductions. He stated that he is looking for funding for printing the book and already has one sponsor and feels he can get others to help out. He asked the Town Board if they could fund at least a part of the printing costs, which would be paid back from the proceeds of the book sales. The cost for printing the book is \$1,500 for the initial printing of 200 books. Proceeds, over the cost of printing, will be used to finish the restoration and future upkeep of the cemetery. Stefan said a separate account will be established at NBT bank for this project. The Town Board commended Stefan on a job well done.

Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Ron Charles to help fund the printing cost with a \$1,000 check. Motion carried with 4 Ayes.

Dan Taylor expressed his concern that the Town of Oxford hasn't a resolution by the Town Board to prohibit using the brine material from gas drilling fracking on Town roads. He gave each Board Member a copy of a report taken from the internet which showed toxic trace elements in the Pennsylvania Marcellus formation that far exceeded what's found in both drinking water and surface water ecological criteria. Tim Tefft, Superintendent of Highways, said he will not use the brine material on Oxford roads and the Town Board was in agreement. Supervisor Wilcox said he will have a proper resolution prepared to present to the Town Board at the next stated meeting on March 12.

TOWN JUSTICE REPORT:

John Weidman, Town and Village Justice, handout a Town Court summary report of cases started 01/01/2013 to 12/31/2013 and explained his new financial accounting system being used for court business. Justice Weidman also stated that he has applied for another \$30,000 grant for additional court space on the upper floors of the bank building. There is an increasing need for court room space, especially in cases requiring privacy. Many times during court sessions the court room is full and people are standing in the hallway.

Motion was made by Alan Davis and seconded by Jerry Locke to accept the 2013 Annual Report of the Town Justice and have it filed with the Town Clerk. Motion carried with 4 Ayes.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The January 2014 collateralized deposit account information report was received from BNY Mellon.

A letter was received from Walt and Brenda Hammond stating that their names should not have appeared on the petition for a moratorium on gas drilling. The letter went on to say that they do, in fact, support gas drilling safely as possible and that people should be allowed to do what they want with their land.

The 2014 Tax Foreclosure list was received from Chenango County for properties in the Town and Village of Oxford. Thirteen properties were listed.

A letter and invoice was received by Supervisor Wilcox from Natoli & Natoli Law Firm that they have completed the review of the proposed Town of Oxford Zoning Ordinance changes. He said it was a good layman's document and to go with the proposed changes.

Town Clerk, Jim Hemstrought, said he needs a copy of all the final changes before he can present them to the Town Board for their review prior to a public hearing being set. Councilman Ron Charles stated that he feels a new zoning map needs to be made that shows all property lines clearly for the various district boundaries. Ron volunteered to work with the Planning Board on this, with the approval of the Town Board. Approval was given.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Supervisor Wilcox said there are two Planning Board terms that need to be filled. Jeff Locke has decided not to serve another term. Supervisor Wilcox recommended Joan Swertfager to fill one of the unexpired terms to December 2016. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Alan Davis to appoint Joan Swertfager to the unexpired Planning Board term to December 2016. The motion carried with 4 Ayes.

Supervisor Wilcox recommended Larry Beckwith to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Halsteter on the Board of Assessment Review to 9/30/2018. Mr. Halsteter is now a permanent resident in Ocklawaha, Florida. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Ron Charles to appoint Larry Beckwith to the unexpired term on the Assessment Review Board to 9/30/2018. The motion carried with 4 Ayes.

Jerry Locke reported that he met with the Riverview Cemetery Association and discussed their financial problems. He was showed copies of the Association's records and he believes they are trying to run the Cemetery as financially sound as possible. Financial help is needed most during the spring and summer months for grounds keeping.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Tim reported that he has enough salt on hand, but hopes that the sand supply holds out. All the equipment is okay at the present time and the new truck body is being put into service.

Supervisor Wilcox said that the County will be replacing two bridges this coming year, one on Hoben Road and one on Route 32.

BILLS & CLAIMS: February 2014

Claims #17 thru #34	Total: \$ 5,991.98
Claims #18 thru #34	Total: \$36,697.75

Motion was made by Alan Davis and seconded by Jerry Locke to pay the bills and claims. Motion carried with 4 Ayes.

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The next Town Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2014 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 8:45 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Town Clerk