

OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
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. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Supervisor Wilcox.

Present were:

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

Town Clerk: James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Highway Superintendent: Absent

Others Present: Ken Ryan, Oxford Planning Board Representative
 Hon. John Weidman, Oxford Town Justice
 Numerous Pro and Anti-Gas Citizens

Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2013. 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 February 28, 2013. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

February 2013

Revenues	\$734,976.87
Appropriations	\$ 43,645.57

Check Book Balances:

General	\$283,701.68
Highway	\$594,476.83
T&A	\$ 12,373.40
Payroll	\$ 16,531.55
Water District #1	\$ 3,155.80

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Before opening the meeting to public comments Supervisor Wilcox addressed all present. He said that over the last eight months the Town Board has dealt with the issue of gas drilling. We all have our own opinions on the subject. We may agree or disagree and neither is right or wrong. We shouldn't make any of this personal. The Town Board is here too serve all the people of Oxford and we need to keep our minds open to all sides of the issue. I encourage you take your concerns to your State and Federal officials. They are the ones that you need to be talking with. I am going to allow each speaker 3 minutes to make their comments and will keep the public portion of the meeting open for 30 minutes.

The following residents presented written statements: Paul Brennan, Ellen Anderson and Mina Takahashi.

Paul Brennan's statement included several items. One was on the Foil Law and his belief that the Town had not following the prescribed time frame and answer to the foil request he recently made. Another item had to do with filing of proper forms for approval by the County of the 2007 Zoning Laws and an item concerned the issuing of a permit to allow drilling of a natural gas well in the Town of Oxford. A complete copy of Paul's comments is on file in the Town Clerk's office and can be seen during regular business hours.

Ellen Anderson was the next speaker and presented 3 questions that she wanted answered by the Town Board.(1) were the 2007 laws submitted legally to the county? (2) is gas drilling consistent

with the 1970 Master Plan and the 2013 Village zoning laws? (3) when is the Town Board going to hold public working sessions with Oxford Village leaders to reconcile differences over gas drilling? Ellen submitted a copy of the article recently published as a letter to the editor in the Norwich Sun which she wrote. A copy of the article is on file in the Town Clerk's office and can be seen during regular business hours.

Mina Takahashi comments included a request that the Oxford Town Board enact a ban on spreading gas well brines on Oxford roadways. She said that she understands that Chenango County has been using gas industry brines for road deicing and dust control. Her concern is that the waste water that contains toxic chemicals and radioactivity could end up in grazing fields or croplands and then in humans. Mina also submitted a law enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Warwick as a sample for the Town Board to consider. A complete copy of Mina's comments is on file in the Town Clerk's office and can be seen during regular business hours.

Several other residents spoke on the subject of gas drilling, both Pro and Con, which were consistent with previous Town Board meeting comments.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The February 2013 collateralized deposit account information report was received from BNY Mellon.

A letter was received from the County Youth Bureau stating that the money that is usually divided between the Town and Village of Oxford, will go in full to the Town of Oxford this year. This is due to the Village decision to withdraw their monetary support of the Oxford Swimming Pool.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Highway Superintendent Timothy Tefft couldn't make the meeting due to a very bad cold. His report was given by Supervisor Lawrence Wilcox. All is going well at the Town Garage and everything is on schedule.

Jerry Locke asked if it was too early to fix pot holes in Town roads. Larry Beckwith asked about cleaning the ditches of logs and other debris before the annual roadside trimming is started. Supervisor Wilcox said he will contact Tim about these items of concern.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The annual report of the Town Justice was handed out by Supervisor Wilcox for the perusal of the Town Board Council. Motion was made by Larry Beckwith and seconded by John Hofmann to accept the reports of the Town Justice and place them on file in the Town Clerk's office. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

Justice Weidman came late to the meeting and explained the various parts of the report which included a summary report of cases started between 1-1-2011 and 12-31-2012, along with the aging summary and court ranking report. He also stated that Village Justice Charles Race has resigned and he may be asked to do both until an election is held.

Kenneth Ryan, Planning Board Representative, handed out a copy of "Schedule B – Noise Control" that the Planning Board has been working on. He asked the Town Board members to read it over and report back at the April 10th Town Board meeting. He stated that he also needed to know what noise level "DBA" the Board Council would like included in the Ordinance and where noise from well drilling fits into this ordinance.

Supervisor Wilcox reported that Town Historian Vicky House has been asked to make a presentation at the 2013 Annual State Conference to be held in Syracuse, April 17 – 19. This is an honor for her and the Town of Oxford.

The Oxford Vision Plan was submitted to Chenango County for code #239 review. After the review the Town Board, Village Board and the Planning Boards of the Village and Town will coordinate their efforts to complete the Plan.

Two more complaints have been made by neighbors of property owners that continue to fill their yards with various types of unsightly and unhealthy items. The County Code Enforcement will be contacted for help in handling these situations.

BILLS & CLAIMS: March 13, 2012

Claims #32 thru #48: plus payrolls of General Fund: Total: \$175,682.94

Claims #39 thru #55: plus payrolls of Highway Fund: Total: \$ 30,212.68

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

The next Town Board meeting will be held on April 10, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 9:05 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Town Clerk