

**OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 10, 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. 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  
Larry Beckwith  
John Hofmann

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

Absent:

Others Present: Nine residents of Oxford signed into the meeting and one resident of McDonough and Smithville.

**Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:**

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve the minutes of March 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 March 30, 2013. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

**March 2013**

Revenues	\$ 359.42
Appropriations	\$211,595.52

Check Book Balances:

General	\$105,991.04
Highway	\$463,696.66
T&A	\$ 11,638.17
Payroll	\$ 16,531.55
Water District #1	\$ 3,155.86

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Supervisor Wilcox opened the public comment portion of the Town Board meeting and asked if there was any person wanting to address the Board on a subject other than gas drilling. There was no one wanting to talk on another subject so Supervisor Wilcox opened the meeting to the pro and con gas drilling residents who wanted to address the board. The rules set down for open comments were three minutes for each person and thirty minutes total time.

Will Bradley was the first to address the board. He spoke favorably about the Town Board and the longevity of each of the board council members as residents of Oxford and the town board. He also expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Wilcox for the many years he has served the Town of Oxford both as a board member and as Supervisor. Oxford should be proud of the job that the Town Board has been doing under the leadership of Supervisor Wilcox.

Paul Brennan was here to find out why Supervisor Wilcox has not answered his FOIL request. He said that he has repeatedly requested documents and information under the Freedom of Information Law pertaining to various issues related to zoning and permitting of natural gas drilling. He also recommended that the 2007 laws be rescinded since they were illegally adopted, have many faults and don't truly represent the sentiment of the town residents. Mr. Brennan's full comments are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

Irving Hall said he is very disappointed that the Town Board hasn't bothered to answer the 100 questions that have been previously presented over the last eight months by residents of Oxford. He submitted all these same questions again for the board to answer. He stated that his confidence in the Town Board is down and he is deeply concerned about not responding to the FOIL requests. A folder containing all of these questions is on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

Mina Takahashi presented three items of concern: (1) she was following up on her request at the March 13, 2013 meeting that the Oxford Town Board enact a ban on spreading gas well brines on Oxford roadways. She stated that "from your comments during that meeting, it seemed clear that the board shared my concerns about spreading flowback and production water which can contain and introduce benzenes, biocides, and radiation on our roads". She said that we are still vulnerable to gas-well brine spreading from gas drilling operators and sited Pennsylvania as an example. (2) She shared information about the documented link between the practice of underground injection of wastewater from HVHF and the occurrence of earthquakes. She said that this has occurred in Oklahoma and we should learn from their experience. (3) She strongly urged the Town Board to rescind the 2007 zoning laws since the Association of Towns in 2008 informed the Town of Oxford that the law is "invalid and unenforceable". Mina's full comments are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

E-mail was received from John and Tina Bancroft concerned about what gas drilling will do to the water supply in the Town of Oxford. Another e-mail was received from Pat Koenig concerned about what has been going on with the Town Board in regard to the HVHF drilling. She stated that "we expect the Board to stand up, as the Village Board did, and do the right thing for everyone, not for a few". She implored the Board to revisit the issues and to see what the majority want or don't want.

A letter was received from Dan Taylor and Trellan Smith stating that they have been keeping up with the monthly meetings through video recordings and first-hand accounts. They wrote, in part: "regardless of where each of us has come to stand on the advisability of high volume horizontal hydraulic fracturing, this technique will require spatially intensive development of our mineral resources that will have a huge industrial impact on our community". They also urged the Board to repeal the existing legislation and to undertake, in combination with the ideas put forth in the Oxford Vision Plan, a new set of zoning regulations that would put enforceable protections in place for the people of Oxford. Dan and Trellan's full comments are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

Many other residents filled in the thirty minutes allotted to the matter of gas drilling with various comments, pro and con.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Information was received concerning a free energy seminar to be presented by Renew Chenango County on Wednesday, April 17, at the Northeast Classic Car Museum, Norwich, NY.

A letter was received from NYMIR (New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal) announcing an decrease in the rates for 2014.

A letter from Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways was received announcing recipients of the Girl Awards. Kathryn Hofmann of Oxford Troop #30212 was awarded the "Bronze Award". This award is the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn for spending a minimum of 20 hours on a project impacting their community for years to come.

E-mail was received from Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) announcing that there will be an estimated increase of 28.16% in allocations for 2013.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Supervisor Wilcox received a written resignation from Planning Board member Paul Dropp.

Supervisor Wilcox received verbal resignation from Elmer Aldrich, Dog Control Officer. Supervisor Wilcox stated that Elmer has been the Dog Warden for eighteen (18) years and has done an excellent job for all those years. Thomas Palmer, who was filling in for Elmer while he was on vacation in Florida over the winter months, will be asked to continue as the full time Dog Control Officer.

The Oxford Town Board will be attending the Planning Board regular meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2013, to talk about changes to the 2007 Zoning Regulations.

The Village of Oxford has requested a date for a combined meeting with the Oxford Town Board, Planning Board and ZBA Board with their boards. The Town Board will suggest Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 pm, the same night as the Town Planning Board meeting.

**HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Tim Tefft, Highway Superintendent, reported that the crew has been cleaning up snow plowing equipment, cleaning various ditches of debris, hauling stone and filling pot holes. He has been working on the road maintenance inventory and taking measurements for upcoming paving to be done this year. He commented that the rain has helped with the road sweeping by keeping the dust down. Tim said he will check on prices for renting a brush mower and that the 1996 truck box should be done next week.

Discussion was held on what to do with the 2001 Chevy pickup. It was decided to declare it surplus for sale. Motion was made by Larry Beckwith and seconded by Jerry Locke to declare the 2001 Chevy ½ -ton Pickup truck as surplus equipment and advertise it for sale in the Evening Sun. Motion carried with 5 Ayes.

**BILLS & CLAIMS: April 2013**

Claims #49 thru #66: plus payrolls of General Fund:	Total: \$20,186.94
Claims #56 thru #68: plus payrolls of Highway Fund:	Total: \$31,366.24

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

The next Town Board meeting will be held on May 8, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 8:50 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.  
Town Clerk