

**OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 8, 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: Patrick Moore, Oxford Pool Director.  
Several Anti and Pro Gas Drilling residents from the Oxford area.

**Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:**

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10, 2013 as amended. 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 April 30, 2013. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances:

**April 2013**

Revenues	\$6,901.50
Appropriations	51,418.14

Check Book Balances:

General	\$ 93,514.23
Highway	436,351.81
T&A	11,587.97
Payroll	16,531.55
Water District #1	3,155.86

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ron Charles said he was pleased to see that both boards are working together and strongly believes that the comprehensive Plan and the Town Zoning Ordinance must be updated to protect the residents and maintain the rural character, natural beauty and a clean environment. He was concerned about the present zoning map and that no property lines or dimensions were on it to clearly define the boundaries of the various districts to be in accordance with the Town Zoning Ordinance.

Supervisor Wilcox had a zoning map, obtained from the County, that does show all the various boundaries in the various zoning district in the Town of Oxford. A true copy of this map will soon be posted at the Town Clerk's office for view by the public.

Paul Brennan spoke at length about the 2007 Zoning Law and what steps he said were needed to be taken to correct the mishandling of the law back in 2007. Mr. Brennan's complete document is on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

In response to this Town Councilman Jerry Locke said that, except for the filing of the 239 Review, all the necessary steps were taken back in 2007 for approval by the Town Attorney and the State of New York and properly filed accorded to law.

Jennifer Cole, who moved to Oxford in late 2010, said she decided to move here for a number of reasons, but the major reason was because she has post-traumatic stress disorder from serving in

Baghdad, Iraq. She said she needs to live in a place where there isn't a lot of loud noises. She feels that if gas drilling is allowed in the Town of Oxford, the noise from the drilling and the large trucks moving over the town roads could bring on frightening flashbacks. She ended her concerns with this statement "I truly enjoy the peace of Oxford and the surrounding communities and I don't want to see that peace destroyed by hydraulic fracturing".

Ellen Anderson's concern about what gas drilling will do to future generations, especially children and grandchildren. She was concerned about health and welfare of the entire world, not just Oxford and we should not be contributing to the destruction of our environment. She stated "our president and our politicians have not given us an affordable energy alternative to oil, coal, gas or wood. We need government to lead us in the direction of safe renewable sources of energy. And that governmental responsibility starts with small town boards made up of people like you. Ellen's complete comments are on file in the Town Clerk's office and may be seen during regular business hours.

Bryant LaTourette, pro-gas resident, handed out a Growth and Prosperity Report written by the Manhattan Institute of Policy Research which showed a comparison of New York and Pennsylvania and the economic effects of hydrofracturing on local economies. The report showed that Pennsylvania counties with hydrofractured gas wells have performed better across economic indicators than those that have no wells. Among many other facts the report said that counties with fewer than 20 wells had income levels go up 12 percent and counties without any wells only went up 8 percent. He felt that gas drilling in New York State is much safer because we have stronger rules in place for gas drilling.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Letter was received from the State of New York Department of Taxation and Finance determining the final special franchise full value for NYSEG, Citizens Telecom Co of NY and Time Warner.

E-mail was received from Terry Stark, Oxford Village Mayor, concerning two proposed Planning documents related to the recent rebidding process for the Bank roof as well as the approaching acquisition of the Sullivan property.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Patrick Moore, Oxford Pool Director, presented the following report concerning the swimming pool for the 2013 season:

Work done – dismantled garage door, tree limbs and vegetation removed, and shelves put up in the pumphouse. All filters are in good condition.

Work needed to be done – new signage, safety equipment in pump house, repair pool steps, repair ladder bolts and concrete and repair door to guardhouse.

The Village will be turning on the water to the pool next week and John Tracy will be up to get water to the pool and guardhouse hooked up. B&D has been notified that the pool is scheduled to open on June 17, 2013. The pool will be closed on July 4th (holiday) and June 22<sup>nd</sup> (graduation).

Pool Director Moore said that there will be five new guards taking their lifeguard test and six lifeguards will be recertifying. He also stated that 350 students are planning to use the pool the last week of school.

#### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:**

Superintendent Tefft reported that the highway crew is in the process of patching potholes, hauling stone and other springtime work. He also stated that the Gradall is down for a short time and he will be renting a brush mower for a month this spring. A list of trees, that need to come down, is being compiled. The highway department cannot take down some of these trees due to their location and a tree company will need to be hired. There is also an electric wire going across the parking lot that needs to be replaced.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Supervisor Wilcox called for an executive session to discuss a litigation matter. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Larry Beckwith to go into executive session at 8:25 pm to discuss a current litigation matter. Motion was carried as follows:

Alan Davis           Aye  
John Hofmann       Aye  
Jerry Locke           Aye  
Larry Beckwith      Aye  
Lawrence Wilcox    Aye

The matter will continue on the present course and no further action was taken during this executive session. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Larry Beckwith to come out of executive session at 8:38 pm. Motion carried as follows:

Alan Davis           Aye  
John Hofmann       Aye  
Jerry Locke           Aye  
Larry Beckwith      Aye  
Lawrence Wilcox    Aye

**BILLS & CLAIMS:** May 2013

Claims #67 thru #81: plus payrolls of General Fund:           Total: \$17,721.66  
Claims #69 thru #82: plus payrolls of Highway Fund:           Total: \$45,761.75

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

The next Town Board meeting will be held on June 12, 2013 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 8:45 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.  
Town Clerk