

OXFORD TOWN BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, November 1, 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. This meeting was re-scheduled from the second Wednesday and due and timely notice given to the public as required by law.

Present were:

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

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

Absent: John Hofmann

Others Present: Paul Dropp, representing the Town Planning Board

Twelve residents of Oxford representing the Anti-Gas Drilling Coalition

Minutes Previous Monthly Meeting:

Jerry Locke made a motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2012. Motion was seconded by Larry Beckwith 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 October 31, 2012. He also gave the following Revenues, Appropriations and Checkbook Balances which he noted were not reconciled yet:

October 2012

Revenues	\$ 451.00
Appropriations	\$45,573.56

Check Book Balances:

General	\$ 2,655.65
Highway	\$23,158.26
T&A	\$15,906.70
Payroll	\$16,609.62
Water District #1	\$ 1,522.36

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COMMUNICATIONS:

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

A copy of a letter to Vicky House, Oxford Historian, from the Association of Public Historians of New York State was read. The Association expressed their thanks to Vicky for being a presenter at the Fall 2012 Region 10 meeting held on 9/29/12 in Bainbridge, NY. Her presentation was on "Pictorial Postmark" covering history during the Civil War period.

Thank you letter was received from the Oxford Historical Society for the Town Board's \$1,000 donation to help them continue preserving Oxford's rich history.

Letter was received from the Village of Oxford notifying the Town Board that the Board of Trustees proposed Local Law #2 of 2012 on October 15. This local law is "to effect a Moratorium and Prohibition within the Village of natural gas and petroleum exploration and extraction activities, underground storage of natural gas and disposal of natural gas wastes". A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:00 pm at American Legion Post 376.

Supervisor Wilcox gave a heads-up from information that was given out at a recent County meeting that a gas pipeline may be crossing a small portion of the Town of Oxford at the northwest and southwest corners.

A dozen form letters were received prior to the Town Board meeting from residents of Oxford opposing "Compulsory Integration" and urging the Town Board to contact the State legislature and ask them to repeal this law as applied to high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing.

Public Hearing on 2013 Town of Oxford Budget

Supervisor Wilcox opened the Public Hearing at 7:45 pm. The affidavit of published legal notice dated October 24, 2012, was read.

Public Comments:

The following residents: Paul Brennan, Glenn Cogshall, Jean Cogshall, Susan Granata, Richard Lacey, Irving Hall and Mina Takahashi spoke concerning compulsory integration, establishing funds within the budget to guard against unforeseen expenses brought on by gas exploration and drilling, strengthening the Zoning Laws to help protect the residents and close the loop-holes, and the enactment of a moratorium on gas drilling. Earlier in the day Mina Takahashi submitted a binder of signed petition forms containing the signatures of 972 constituents in the Town and Village of Oxford. The petitions asked the Oxford Town Board to enact a 24-month moratorium on hydrofracking in Oxford. No action was taken by the Town Board.

Many questions were asked about money being added to the 2013 Town Budget for items such as more ambulances, emergency vehicles and training programs for town/village personnel in case of a major gas explosion or toxic chemical spill or contamination, funds for litigation expenses should the gas company fall short in their contract agreements, legal and administrative costs to deal with a class action lawsuit filed by hundreds of victimized citizens.

Supervisor Wilcox responded with several comments of his own. He pointed out that there is a State mandate to keep budgets under a 2 percent increase and the Town budget will adhere to that mandate. He stated that the Fire Department and Ambulance service is under the budget of the Village of Oxford and the Town of Oxford contracts with the Village for services to the town. Supervisor Wilcox also pointed out that the Fire Department and Emergency Squad are having trouble finding people to carry out their responsibilities and are qualified to run the present equipment. What would we do with all the extra equipment if purchased? As far as future major calamities within the Town of Oxford, how much is enough to put in the budget and how much of an increase in taxes will the residents stand?

Several of the letters that were requested to be made a part of the minutes will be put on the website as attachments. These letters and other items will be put on file in the Town Clerk's office for the perusal of all residents during regular office hours.

A motion to close the Hearing was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Larry Beckwith at 8:27 pm. Motion carried with 4 Ayes.

Jerry Locke made a motion to adopt the 2013 Budget. Motion was seconded by Larry Beckwith and motion carried with 4 Ayes by Roll Call vote as follows:

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

Supervisor Wilcox declared that the foregoing 2013 Town of Oxford Budget was duly passed and adopted. The 2013 Town of Oxford Budget is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available during regular business hours.

Town of Oxford Water District #1 2013 Budget:

The Town of Oxford Water District #1 Budget for 2013 was presented by Supervisor Wilcox and reviewed by the Town Board. Motion was made by Larry Beckwith to adopt the 2013 Water District #1 Budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Jerry Locke and carried with 4 Ayes by Roll Call vote as follows:

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

Supervisor Wilcox declared that the foregoing 2013 Town of Oxford Water District #1 Budget was duly passed and adopted. The 2013 Water District #1 Budget is on file in the Town Clerk's Office and available during regular business hours.

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Tim Tefft, Highway Superintendent, reported that the town crew is finishing up with the patching of roads and getting the trucks ready for the winter season. Everything is on schedule.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Dog Control Officer, Elmer Aldrich, will be leaving for Florida on November 15, 2012. He expects to returning May 1st, 2013. Motion was made by Jerry Locke and seconded by Alan Davis to appoint Thomas Palmer as Dog Control Officer during Elmer's absence.

BILLS & CLAIMS: November 2012

Claims #172 thru #182, plus payrolls of General Fund:	Total: \$17,234.90
Claims #165 thru #179, plus payrolls of Highway Fund:	Total: \$57,069.09

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

The next Town Board meeting will be held on December 12, 2012 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor at 9:00 pm.

James W. Hemstrought Jr.
Town Clerk