

**NEW LISBON TOWN BOARD---OCTOBER 25, 2011---7:30 PM
PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2011-
PROTECTION OF RURAL ENVIRONMENT LOCAL LAW**

Present: Supervisor Robert Taylor, Councilmen Glen Noto, Edward Lentz, Connie Chase and Robert Eklund, Clerk Charlene Wells, Also: Residents Donald & Harriet Collison, Ed Vincent, Ed George, Millie Douglas, Fred Schoellig, Karen Shinn, Charles & Linda Sweet, Alfred & Anne Murdock, Karen Nowak, Nancy Moen, Edward & Dara Tracy, Richard & Patricia Cozzolino, Brian Ryther, Warren Ryther, Mike Newell, Sue Smith, Donald & Jennifer Smith, Abigail & Jim McEnroe, Edward & Cheryl Bohn, Flo Loomis, Susan Kennedy, Heidi Lernihan, Christina Strain, Jimmy & Andrea Denekamp, John Braunius, Barry Braunius, John & Carol Lernihan, Charles Endress, Joan Carman, Michael Parsons and Florence Canahan (from Burlington)

Supervisor Taylor opened the special meeting at 7:30 PM. He noted that the Board is presenting this law for consideration because the majority of residents speaking out on the gas drilling issue have asked for it. This local law would prohibit heavy industry in the Town of New Lisbon. We have forwarded a copy of the law to the Otsego County Planning Dept. for their review.

Mike Newell commended the Board for going forward with this law. He advised that he would donate \$100.00 to defend the law. He further added that the DEC will not have the manpower to police the gas companies and there is no superfund for damages.

Nancy Moen thanked the Board for listening to what the majority wanted, for upholding the Comprehensive Plan and for trying to keep local control. She also stated she would donate to a defense fund. She added that prevention is the key as the environment will never be the same if it's damaged.

Edward Bohn advised that he is not against gas drilling. He feels it should be up to the landowner if they want to allow gas drilling on their property. He feels that the media has provided a lot of mis-information on the gas issue.

Sue Smith stated that she is against this law because it takes away property owners' rights. She felt the definition of heavy industry may change in the future. She does not want to pay to defend this law. She felt that the survey done was not worded properly to get clear results.

James Denekamp noted that if something does go wrong with drilling it could affect others. If we pass this law now, we can always rescind it later.

Charles Endress commented that gas drilling will devalue property values.

Alfred Murdock stated that once the drilling starts, it won't stop and the gas companies will spend millions.

Edward Tracy feels that he owns the land and the gas companies shouldn't be able to take gas from underneath him. Those who are now assessed as agricultural should be reassessed as commercial if they have a gas well. If anyone does get a gas well and has problems, they will be able to afford to move out and leave the rest of us to deal with the consequences.

John Braunius advised that he was in favor of this law. Gas drilling will not be good for land values, could ruin our water supply and have long term effects. We should be looking into renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. He added that it's been said that most of the gas would be going overseas with no local benefit.

Flo Loomis questioned if the law was specific to only ban gas drilling. The Board advised that the law was to ban heavy industry and the definition of heavy industry was read.

Andrea Denekamp thanked the Board for proposing this law. Even though something bad doesn't happen every time they drill, when something does go wrong it not only affects the landowner with the gas well, but also those property owners nearby.

Supervisor Robert Taylor noted that he has signed a lease on his property. He has signed them in the past and nothing ever came of them. With all of the community opposition against gas drilling, he has put himself aside and done what the majority have requested by supporting this law. Approximately 75% of those voicing an opinion have been against gas drilling, so even though a few residents may benefit from gas drilling, he feels that he has to watch out for the rest of the community.

Ed George questioned the definition of chemical manufacturing as a lot of industry uses chemicals.

Barry Braunius commented that he was against gas drilling and in favor of passing this law.

Ed Vincent commended the Board for their actions to try to protect the Town and noted that he also would donate to a defense fund.

Karen Shinn felt that this was a gutsy action by the Town Board. Gas drilling will change the face of the community. She fully supports this law and will support legal action.

Carol Lernihan thanked the Board for proposing this law and was happy to see so many people come out tonight.

It was noted the state may be looking at gas drilling from an economic standpoint. Florence Canahan from Burlington Flats noted that when she was in Alaska they had a severance tax on each well head. NY may be looking at doing this also.

Donald Smith noted that he has stayed in the Town and just built a new home. He is in favor of gas drilling and doesn't feel it will hurt us. He further added that we could deal with whatever happens without the proposed law.

A written comment was received from Helen Stayman of Goddards Road. She feels that there needs to be more protective regulations in place to ensure the safety and beauty here. "Those willing to risk their properties by allowing gas drilling are gambling with their legacy to future generations".

Councilman Edward Lentz noted that they estimate there are 84 trillion cubic feet of gas in the Marcellus shale region. The annual usage of gas in the country is 24 trillion cubic feet. He further stated that it doesn't make sense to put our land at risk for only an estimated four year supply of gas.

Councilman Robert Eklund advised that the state legislature is working on a Home Rule law which would amend DEC regulations to allow towns to enact local laws relating to gas drilling.

Supervisor Taylor noted that the November meeting of the Town Board will be on Thursday, November 10th, 2011 because of Election Day falling on the regular meeting date of November 8, 2011. Candidates for local office can not be in the Town Hall on Election Day, except to cast their vote. Since we have to wait to receive the response to the proposed law from the County Planning Department, the public hearing will be continued at the November 10th, 2011 meeting. It was also noted that there will be a meeting at SUCO on November 10th, 2011 for anyone to speak out about the DEC's proposed regulations. A transcript from that meeting will be sent to the DEC. The public comment period for that goes until December 12, 2011.

With no further comments from the floor, a motion was made by Connie Chase, seconded by Glen Noto and carried 5/0 to postpone closing the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #2-2011 until the November 10th, 2011 regular monthly meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Charlene R. Wells, New Lisbon Town Clerk