

## PUBLIC HEARING

November 1, 2012

**LOCAL LAW #2-2012** A Local Law to Extend Local Law #1-2011 for one year for the Prohibition of and Moratorium on Gas and Petroleum Exploration and Extraction Activities, Underground Storage of Natural Gas, and Disposal of Natural Gas or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration, and Production Wastes in the Town of Alfred.

A public hearing was held at the Alfred Station Fire Company and opened by Supervisor Tom Mansfield at 6:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Town Board members present were Supervisor Tom Mansfield, Mary Stearns, Jerry Snyder, Fion MacCrea and Donn Lang.

Representing the Planning Board were Tim Cochran and Bill Cleveland. Also present were Highway Superintendent Jamie Mansfield and Town Clerk Janice Burdick. Representing the press were David Snyder of the *Alfred Sun* and Neal Simon of *the Evening Tribune*.

Also present were approximately 80 residents – see attached sign in sheets. Several emails were also received and attached. Supervisor Mansfield allowed anyone that wanted to speak that opportunity and many took advantage of that. The following are some of the concerns that were expressed:

- Rights of landowners would be taken from them if Moratorium is extended
- Concern with Compulsory Integration
- Landowners should have the right to decide what happens on their land.
- Hydrofracking is a poor use of water resources. Other methods to be worked on to extract gas even if it is more expensive. Moratorium way of telling gas companies to work on other, safer methods.
- Need to look at the long term risks.
- Concern with neighboring Towns allowing Hydrofracking – aquifer is part of other Towns surrounding Alfred. They will take gas from their property but their rights have been taken away from them.
- Just because neighbors do it doesn't make it right. All the small communities need to ban together for a statewide ban.
- Would be to the Town's advantage to bring in an expert. State is still debating – until State decides doesn't feel Town has the right to pass a Moratorium. Should wait and see what the State is going to do.
- Feels voters should decide.
- Limitations to freedom – your freedom to frack your land infringes on my freedoms.
- Been going on in 34 states and they still don't have it right.
- Concern that Town has no legal right to pass Moratorium. Wants it done by the law.
- - Fion MacCrea responded that the Town takes this very seriously and if someone has something that says this is illegal would like it to pass on to the Lawyer. Board is invoking Home Rule. Doesn't take away mineral rights. Does not prohibit landowners from extracting gas – wells have been drilled for years. Purpose of Moratorium is for continued research and to ensure it is done safely. Mark Klingensmith added that 3 bans have been challenged in court – 2 have been upheld. Town has a right to a moratorium.
- Not individual property rights – will effect entire community.

There were several more comments made with the majority in favor of a moratorium.

A show of hands showed that of all the people there only about 5-6 were not in favor of a moratorium.

The Public Hearing was closed at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Janice L. Burdick Town Clerk

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