

**REGULAR SESSION  
SECOND DAY**

**Wednesday, May 20, 2009**

The Chairman called the Board to order, the roll was called and the following Representatives were found to be present:

Powers, Clark, Murphy, Fournier, Dubben, McCarty, Stayton, Rothenberger, Harrington

Under Privilege of the Floor, Sam Wilcox said that he is one of the growing numbers of people who are worried about giving up natural resources and natural beauty. He felt that gas drilling may threaten the water supply and suggested that it would be wiser to concentrate on energy conservation. Mr. Wilcox stated that he hopes the County Board will consider alternatives.

Adrian Kuzminski of Sustainable Otsego felt that Otsego County is not prepared for gas drilling. Some people feel that because fuel prices are low drilling will not happen to the extent that was once expected. He said that it would be prudent to look at the possibility of what this will unveil in a large scale manner. Mr. Kuzminski stated that other counties have taken this very seriously while Otsego County has not and hoped that the County Board would appoint a task force to look at this issue seriously.

Susan Multer, a Chemung County resident, stated that she will be reporting back to Chemung County on the presentation. She suggested that the County Board do two simple things in regards to the gas drilling. The first is a letter be sent to the Governor and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation asking them to extend the public comment period from 30 days to 60 days. The second is a letter be sent to the federal government asking that they repeal the exemption of gas drilling in the Safe Water Act.

Cindy Macomber, Otsego County resident, taxpayer and employee, stated that county employees are taking home smaller paychecks because of an increased cost for health insurance.

Dave Grodsky pointed out that he attended an event at the Holiday Inn on pipeline safety. There were sessions on emergency response. The main concern was reverse 911 capabilities. He urged the County Board to consider implementing this service for the county's Communications Center.

Paul Mendelsohn of Cherry Valley stated that one of the main problems with gas drilling is what to do with the hundreds of gallons of toxic waste material. He stated that he has spoken with local realtors and many have said that they are seeing many people concerned about leases. Mr. Mendelsohn also suggested that the County Board send a letter to the NYSDEC regarding the public comment period and the exemption of gas drilling for various environmental acts.

Colleen Blacklock of Oneonta stated that she was happy that her County Representative, Scott Harrington, returned her call regarding the gas drilling issue. She said that it is a non-partisan issue and hoped that everyone would be concerned about

providing clean water for children in the area. Mrs. Blacklock thanked Representative Harrington for his attention.

A lady stated that clean water is more valuable than natural gas and felt that the financial troubles for governments will get much worse, especially in regards to roads and public health.

The following communications were read and ordered filed:

Sally Landers, Exeter Town Supervisor – Letter advising that the Town of Exeter has some serious concerns in regards to the proposed drilling for natural gas in Otsego County and the potential harm the equipment associated with this practice would do to our highways and roads.

John Van Lindt, NYS Task Force on the Future of Off-Track Betting – Letter stating that the Task Force was recently established to analyze and make recommendations concerning the optimal utilization of the state's regional off-track betting system.

The following reports are on file with the Clerk of the Board:

Montgomery-Otsego-Schoharie Solid Waste Management Authority – 2008 Annual Report and 2008 Financial Statements

Under Special Presentations, Representative Stayton introduced Ron Bishop, Hartwick College Professor, who was present to speak on the topic of gas drilling. Mr. Bishop explained that this area of New York State was the deepest part of an inland sea and reviewed the locations of the Utica shale and the Marcellus shale. Otsego County is located where the two overlap, which is highly sought after by drilling companies. Mr. Bishop reviewed the map of leases within the county and pointed out the naturally occurring components of shale, which can be toxic if brought to the surface in liquid form. He explained the hydro fracturing process, problems that drilling company's encounter and their methods of combating them, which often have adverse effects. Some of these problems included drilling mud which can react with radium and form a radioactive scale, well casements cracking while passing through aquifers, having to increase the flow of natural gas with high pressure hydro-fracturing which can force the rock to crack in unpredictable ways, and the use of chemicals. Nearly a quarter of the 300 different chemicals used for drilling are hazardous to human health. Mr. Bishop stated that there are more than just the statistics to deal with as they do not tell the whole story.

The reports of the Standing Committees were given and ordered filed.

Representative Dubben moved for an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. Seconded, Fournier. Total: 6,167; Ayes: 3,917; Absent: 2,250 – Relic, Lindberg, Johnson, Schwerd, Stuligross. Motion carried.

All the general business of the Board having been transacted, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned until Wednesday, June 3, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.