

TOWN OF MARCELLUS

WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

October 25, 2012

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Ross at 7:18 PM. Those in attendance were Supervisor Ross and board members Hakes, Lathrop, O'Hara and Sherman. Also Attorney Gascon and residents MJ Paul, J. Scanlon, Jr., A. Williams and Te Finn. Matters discussed were:

- I. Hydro-Fracking
The board reviewed several pieces of legislation regarding hydro-fracking. These included a ban on all exploration and extraction of gas and petroleum in the town, an aquifer protection amendment to the zoning law and a road use law. Supervisor Ross felt that the ban on all exploration and extraction was too broad a restriction on private property rights. Councilor Hakes agreed but felt that if we ban a process as opposed to an industry, we could weaken our defense if sued. The board directed the attorney to draft a ban on hydro-fracking and also, a road use ordinance and an aquifer protection amendment. Resident John Scanlon, Jr. asked the Town Attorney for a clarification of the recent Binghamton Hydro-fracking ruling. This ruling said that since the Binghamton ordinance contained a sunset date, the City had created a moratorium and did not perform any investigation into hydro-fracking since passage. Also, the law banned something the State does not yet allow. Resident A. Williams addressed the board on behalf of the Otisco Lake Preservation Association. She updated the board on other bans passed and under consideration in other municipalities.
- II. Website
Councilor Hakes has been working with the web-developer and on page layouts. Once complete, the board will receive a proposal for development and installation of an updated website. Supervisor Ross discussed a request from State Office of Real Property Services to have the annual property assessments link displayed on the first page of the town website as opposed to the second page. Request will be considered as part of the website update.
- III. Copier
Supervisor Ross explained a NYSERDA municipal appliance rebate program that will rebate 75% of an Energy Star rated copier. He proposed the purchase of a Toshiba 306 B/W copier. He

recommended further study of the need for a color copier or printer until 2013.

IV. Sewer Grant

Supervisor Ross informed the Board that the Village has been awarded a \$600,000 Local Government Efficiency Grant to upgrade the sewer system. The highway Superintendent has been working with the village to secure reimbursement from the grant for the I&I study and some minor repairs to the town sewer extensions.

V. Attorney

Attorney Gascon told the board that he was awaiting approval of a drainage easement from a resident of Aquinnah Heights.

VIII. Other Matters

Councilor Hakes requested that the board meet in executive session to discuss a personnel issue. The town board entered executive session at 8:22 PM and returned to public session at 8:40 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

