

York Town Board Meeting
February 27, 2014

Present: Supervisor Gerald L. Deming, Council Members: Lynn Parnell, Norman Gates, David Deuel and Frank Rose Jr.

Absent: None

Others: Donna Gates, Diane Skeffington, Henry Fuller, John Ellis, Carl Peter (Zoning & Code Officer) and Davies Nagel

Supervisor Deming opened the Town Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. and invited Councilman Rose to lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Deuel to approve the minutes of the February 13th Town Board Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

1) Donna Gates and Diane Skeffington:

Mrs. Skeffington asked the Board the status of the request made two weeks ago, regarding the State Champion soccer signs. Supervisor Deming stated he spoke with Senator Gallivan's office seeking their assistance with the permit matter. It was conveyed to him they will try to check on what can be done to move forward, but is not reassured about the potential outcome. Mr. Gallivan's office commented if the Town has an alternate plan, he would suggest using it.

Supervisor Deming presented a copy of the proposed sign, prepared by Engineer, Eric Wies. The new sign would reflect a height increase, repainting and a separate message board attachment. Mrs. Skeffington asked if the Board proceeds with this sign, will the State approve it. Mr. Deming responded, the State would approve what has been designed because it matches what is already existing. Mrs. Gates and Mrs. Skeffington reviewed the design and commented how beautiful it was and on how well it blends into the community. Mrs. Gates asked how many signs would be prepared. Supervisor Deming replied probably 4 signs, spaced throughout the township. Mr. Deming added, now that the design has been determined, Mr. Worden will be asked to obtain pricing.

Mrs. Gates and Mrs. Skeffington stated they are very pleased with what has been prepared and commented that they might be able to assist with some funding for the signs, perhaps through the York Central School Boosters and/or other outside donations.

2) Davies Nagel:

Mr. Nagel asked to speak with the Board this evening to discuss a comment made in the minutes of the January 16, 2014 Town Board Meeting. Mr. Nagel stated the Board was discussing a recent Planning Board Meeting and comments regarding the Steering Committee's report on fracking. A question was asked if a

member of the Planning Board was bias, and the reply of Town Board Members was that there was, by one member. Mr. Nagel commented he does not feel because he has a difference of opinion that constitutes bias, and read aloud the definition of the word. **Bias:** prejudice in favor of or against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way considered to be unfair.

Supervisor Deming stated the question did arise at the January meeting, and we did agree with the statement. Mr. Deming stated should we have corrected the term “bias”, absolutely, but didn’t at that time. Mr. Nagel stated when the Board chose not to adopt a moratorium and move forward with the Steering Committee, he offered numerous times to assist and submitted a great deal of information to the committee for review. The information given to Chairman, Ellis was to educate his committee on the risks and dangers of hydrofracturing and the hopes to protect the York Community. Mr. Nagel added as a member of the Planning Board who helped create the Comprehensive Plan, updated zoning regulations and a member of the Open Space committee, he was never accused of being bias or not having an open mind.

Mr. Nagel asked if Supervisor Deming was asked to share a letter with the Town Board and didn’t for whatever reason, would he be referred to as bias or unethical? Supervisor Deming replied Yes, it could be both. Mr. Nagel stated time and again he submitted written documentation to Steering Committee Chairman Ellis to assist in their decision, but never seeing anything included in the meeting minutes or in the final conclusion results. Mr. Nagel added, a packet was given to Mr. Ellis from Dr. Arnold Matlin outlining the health impacts which was never discussed by the committee or appeared in the final report. Mr. Nagel sent a letter to Mr. Ellis inquiring if the packet was received, since there was no mention of it in the report. Mr. Ellis only acknowledged receipt of the information. Mr. Nagel commented the majority of the information submitted was never added and feels Mr. Ellis on his own, decided what was or was not presented to the Steering Committee, which was a personal decision.

Mr. Nagel stated to the Board, what the Committee prepared is a flawed report. Mr. Ellis may feel what they prepared was for the entire community, but it’s not. He and many other residents still have questions and concerns that need to be addressed.

** Mr. Nagel submitted correspondence to the Board....

11/9/12

To: Jack and the Fracking Steering Committee,

**NO REFERENCE TO THIS IN MINUTES OR
FINAL REPORT ALTHOUGH JACK DID ADMIT
RECEIVING THE LETTER**

I just wanted to make a few comments after the 11/7 meeting. First of all, I very much appreciate the Committee's work and dedication in trying to resolve this important issue. It looks to be a time consuming and complicated task but I'm sure you'll agree it needs to be done.

Secondly, I have a real concern that I believe a lot of other people in the town share. If Cuomo allows the fracking industry to begin in New York State before the committee and town are able to finish revising the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning, all that time and effort, along with the taxpayer money spent, may be completely wasted. And more importantly, and you said it well, Jack, without having something in effect to protect our town the industry would "annihilate this community".

Some say the fracking rigs won't come to York but the fact is that the industry could. The following is from the U.S. Energy Information Administration:

"Most existing gas storage in the United States is in depleted natural gas or oil fields that are close to consumption centers. Conversion of a field from production to storage duty takes advantage of existing wells, gathering systems, and pipeline connections. Depleted oil and gas reservoirs are the most commonly used underground storage sites because of their wide availability."

Along with the gas storage would come the clearing the land for pipelines and the increased heavy truck traffic that would support this. This area may also be selected as a destination for the toxic slickwater that is pumped out of the wells or the radioactive tailings from digging the wells. The threat to our clean streams and wells could be substantial. The bottom line is the actual fracking wells don't have to be in York for the town to be subjected to the effects of this heavy industry.

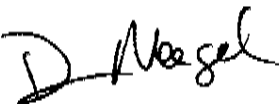
It is clear to me that our steering committee is very serious about doing this job and doing it well. The Avon group said they were half done after four months. If our steering committee takes a similar approach the job may not be done before the middle of 2013. Will Cuomo wait that long before he acts? Does the town really want to take that risk and not have something in place before the governor acts?

We do have another option. The steering committee can recommend to the Town Board that the Board revoke on the moratorium in order to give the steering committee the necessary time to do its job. Our Clark Patterson consultant presented the moratorium option and it was also mentioned that this solution was backed by a large majority of the town residents that came to the fracking moratorium public hearing.

I ask the steering committee to consider this approach. We just have too much to lose.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dave Nagel

11/28/12 From the Planning Board Fracking Committee mentioned in minutes but not in final

November 20th, 2012

LNG Exports Reveal Industry's True Motive: Profits

By Hugh MacMillan

A new report by Food & Water Watch reveals the many flaws in the oil and gas industry's claims about fracking and U.S. energy security. But nothing is more revealing about the industry's deceptive energy security rhetoric than its push to export liquefied natural gas overseas. Alongside the industry's patriotic rhetoric, this push to export LNG is the height of hypocrisy.

As drilling and fracking for shale gas boomed, natural gas was overproduced. By April 2012 the "wellhead price" for natural gas had fallen from over \$10 per thousand cubic feet in July 2008 to under \$2. In 2010, ExxonMobil bought into the shale gas boom, becoming the largest producer of natural gas in the country with its purchase of XTO Energy, but by June 2012 CEO Rex Tillerson stated that because of low natural gas prices, "We are all losing our shirts today.... We're making no money [on natural gas]. It's all in the red." Natural gas prices were far below those needed for the industry to break even, given the cost of drilling and fracking new shale gas wells.

In exporting natural gas, the industry sees a way out of this bind. As opposed to oil, the supply chain for natural gas is not yet globalized, and natural gas prices in Asia and Europe have remained high. This gives the oil and gas industry an opportunity not just to profit from exporting natural gas, but to avoid falling off of its drilling and fracking "treadmill" – that is, because shale gas production declines so steeply, and because the highest producing wells are the first to get drilled and fracked, the industry must keep increasing the rate of drilling and fracking just to maintain a constant level of shale gas production.

So, to stay on this treadmill, and to keep the shale gas bubble from bursting, the oil and gas industry is beating down the door of the Department of Energy, urging the agency to authorize a flood of liquefied natural gas exports. The 19 LNG export proposals, and counting, could amount to sending the equivalent of over 42 percent of current annual natural gas consumption out of the country each year. That is a lot of natural gas, and a lot of it would be shale gas from fracking.

Representative Ed Markey has introduced two bills in the U.S. House that could foil the industry's plan. The first bill, H.R. 4024, would keep the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from approving any new LNG export facilities until at least 2025. The second bill, H.R. 4025, would ensure that natural gas extracted from U.S. public lands is not exported, and further that no new pipelines on public lands would transport natural gas for export.

These two incisive bills are important to the larger fight to rein in an industry that, if allowed to write its own policies, will simply extract as much fossil fuel as possible, as fast as possible, for maximum profit, regardless of the long-term costs to local communities or the health of the planet. Without exporting natural gas to create more demand and get prices high enough to justify drilling and fracking, the oil and gas industry may decide it makes more financial sense to leave the natural gas deep underground. That is precisely where experts warn us fossil fuels need to stay if we are to avoid catastrophic global warming.

report

http://openchannel.nbcnews.com/_news/2012/11/29/15547283-livestock-falling-ill-in-fracking-regions

12/5/12

Livestock falling ill in fracking regions

By Elizabeth Royte Food & Environment Reporting Network
20 Nov 2012 5:40pm, EST

NBCNews.com

- NO mention of this in minutes or final report

?

In the midst of the domestic energy boom, livestock on farms near oil- and gas-drilling operations nationwide have been quietly falling sick and dying. While scientists have yet to isolate cause and effect, many suspect chemicals used in drilling and hydrofracking (or "fracking") operations are poisoning animals through the air, water or soil.

Earlier this year, Michelle Bamberger, an Ithaca, N.Y., veterinarian, and Robert Oswald, a professor of molecular medicine



Journal of Environmental Health Perspectives ...
"New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health," describes how scores of animals died over the course of several years. Fracking industry proponents challenged the study, since the authors neither identified the farmers nor ran controlled experiments to determine how specific fracking compounds might affect livestock.

at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine, published the first and only peer-reviewed report to suggest a link between fracking and illness in food animals.

The authors compiled 24 case studies of farmers in six shale-gas states whose livestock experienced neurological, reproductive and acute gastrointestinal problems after being exposed — either accidentally or incidentally — to fracking chemicals in the water or air. The article, published in "New Solutions: A Journal of Environmental and Occupational Health," describes how scores of animals died over the course of several years. Fracking industry proponents challenged the study, since the authors neither identified the farmers nor ran controlled experiments to determine how specific fracking compounds might affect livestock.

The death toll is insignificant when measured against the nation's livestock population (some 97 million beef cattle go to market each year), but environmental advocates believe these animals constitute an early warning.

Exposed livestock "are making their way into the food system, and it's very worrisome to us," Bamberger said. "They live in areas that have tested positive for air, water and soil contamination. Some of these chemicals could appear in milk and meat products made from these animals."

In Louisiana, 17 cows died after an hour's exposure to spilled fracking fluid, which is injected miles underground to crack open and release pockets of natural gas. The most likely cause of death: respiratory failure.

In New Mexico, hair testing of sick cattle that grazed near well pads found petroleum residues in 54 of 56 animals.

mentioned as hand out literature in minutes

Presented to the York Fracking Steering Committee 12/19/12
 not discussed - Not in final report

Additional issues to consider:

1. Will the town ban flowback water, commonly called "brine" to be spread on our roads as a de-icing agent? As it can contain many other chemicals besides salts including radioactive material (radium 226 and radium 228) this could be a serious health concern. The DEC regulations require companies to test for radioactive agents but not to track them or prevent their release into the environment.
2. Will the town allow the underground storage of natural gas? Most existing gas storage in the United States is in depleted natural gas or oil fields that are close to consumption centers.

Additional articles regarding the gas drilling/fracking issue:

Summary: First Study of Its Kind Detects 44 Hazardous Air Pollutants at Gas Drilling Sites

By Lisa Song. InsideClimate News [12/3/12] A new study found 44 hazardous air pollutants in the backyard of a Colorado home located 0.7 miles from a state-of-the-art drill pad - seven times farther away than 500 feet.

With gas wells in some states being drilled near schools and homes, scientists see a need for better chemical disclosure laws and follow-up research.

For years, the controversy over natural gas drilling has focused on the water and air quality problems linked to hydraulic fracturing, the process where chemicals are blasted deep underground to release tightly bound natural gas deposits.

But a new study [3] reports that a set of chemicals called non-methane hydrocarbons, or NMHCs, is found in the air near drilling sites even when fracking isn't in progress.

According to a peer-reviewed study in the journal Human and Ecological Risk Assessment [4], more than 50 NMHCs were found near gas wells in rural Colorado, including 35 that affect the brain and nervous system. Some were detected at levels high enough to potentially harm children who are exposed to them before birth.

The authors say the source of the chemicals is likely a mix of the raw gas that is vented from the wells and emissions from industrial equipment used during the gas production process.

The paper cites two other recent studies on NMHCs near gas drilling sites in Colorado. But the new study was conducted over a longer period of time and tested for more chemicals than those studies did.

"To our knowledge, no study of this kind has been published to date," the authors wrote.

The researchers took weekly air samples at a site that's within one mile of 130 gas wells in Garfield County, Colo., with little other industry aside from natural gas production. They detected more than 50 chemicals between July 2010 and October 2011, including 44 with reported health effects. The highest concentrations were measured after new wells were drilled, but the concentrations did not increase after the wells were fracked.

Carol Kwiatkowski, one of the study's authors, said that because of limitations on funding and access to drilling sites, the study doesn't definitively link the gas fields to the air pollutants. But because the research was conducted in a region with few people and roads, "natural gas drilling would be the first thing anyone would look at."

What the study shows, she said, is that more research is needed on all stages of gas production. "It's not all about fracking. ... Air pollution needs more focus and scrutiny."

Kwiatkowski is executive director of the **Endocrine Disruption Exchange [5] (TEDX)**, a **nonprofit research organization in Colorado that studies the impact of environmental pollutants on the endocrine system, a network of hormone-producing glands that affects nearly every organ in the body.** TEDX has spent years studying the health effects of natural gas drilling, and its reports are routinely criticized by the industry.

Many residents of the sparsely populated area live within a mile of active wells. As gas drilling expands throughout the nation, production is moving closer to populated areas, with wells in some states now being drilled within a few hundred feet of schools and homes.

All of the chemicals TEDX detected were at levels well below the limits the federal government recommends to protect workers from dangerous chemicals. However, those standards are usually designed for healthy adult males who are exposed to the chemicals on and off for 40 hours a week. Scientists say the risks would likely be different for people—including pregnant women, children and the elderly—who live near gas fields and are exposed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Summary: Race Is On to Clean Up Hydraulic Fracturing

By ERICA GIES NEW YORK TIMES 12/4/12

PARIS — Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has raised fears around the world that the procedure needed to coax shale oil and gas out of tightly packed rock could cause pollution damaging to human health.

The process uses huge amounts of water, and environmentalists, landowners and others worry that drinking-water supplies could be contaminated.

“Our concern is with maintaining the quality of the water in our streams and preventing groundwater contamination,” said George Jugovic Jr., president of Citizens for Pennsylvania’s Future, an advocacy group.

But where environmentalists see risk, some entrepreneurs sense opportunity. With so much money at stake in this industry, businesses think that techniques that could ease concerns about water in fracking might prove valuable.

“Water is now emerging as a significant opportunity and risk for oil and gas companies,” said Laura Shenkar, an expert on corporate water strategy and technologies and founder of the Artemis Project, a consulting firm based in San Francisco.

Lack of water has already slowed shale gas drilling in drier states like Texas. During a summer drought in 2011, regulators suspended permits to withdraw water, limiting production in the Eagle Ford play, which is near San Antonio.

“The municipalities are starting to say that if we’re having a drought and asking everyone to cut back, how can you possibly talk about using so much water?” Ms. Shenkar said.

But some companies are trying to prove this dire prediction wrong. GasFrac, based in Calgary, Alberta, is using a patented liquid petroleum gas gel instead of water as the primary fracking fluid.

After forcing the rock apart, the liquid fuel vaporizes and returns to the surface with the released natural gas. It can be recovered during natural gas treatment and sold as fuel or captured at the wellhead for reuse in fracking, said Nola Johnston, a sales and engineering assistant for GasFrac.

While technically a start-up, it’s a monster baby. The company fracked 700 wells last year, mostly in Canada, in partnership with giant companies including Shell and Chevron. **Its next big move will be into the United States, the company says.**

- Never mentioned in minutes or final report

Issues for the Steering Committee - 12/5/12

1. Radiation from slickwater and tailings (see article).
2. Diesel exhaust from trucks, compressors, etc.
3. Silica dust from sand put into fracking fluids.
4. Traffic noise.
5. Toxic spills.
6. Seismic testing.
7. Traffic corridors to be used by trucks.

FYI Setbacks(feet)

	House	School	Well	Park	Seismic testing
NY	100	150	500	0	0
TEX	1000	1000	1500	UT 1 mi.	MT 1,320 (building)

12-19 Ban brine on our roads

Ban any sort of hydrofracking waste in our sewage system

D. Nagel

12-19 Ban any storage of HUFF water sources

2/27/13

Copy

To: Jack Ellis and the York Fracking Steering Committee

Re: 2/7/13 Livingston County News Letter to the Editor from the York Fracking Committee

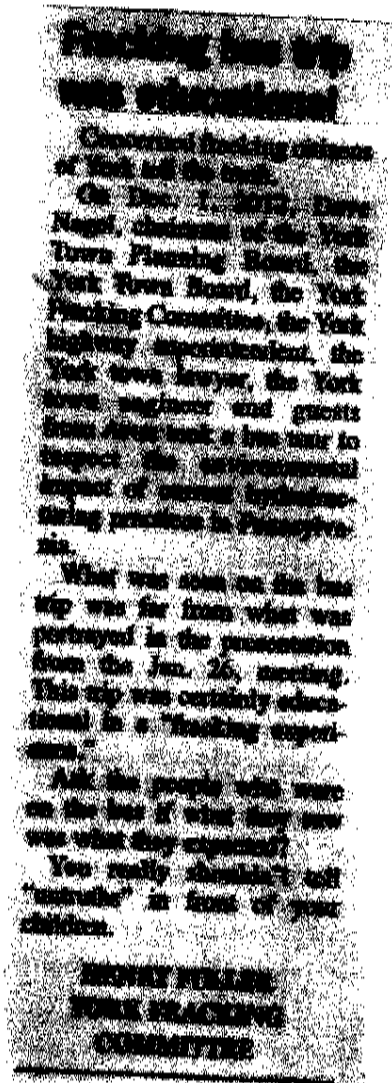
JAVE
- Was this from the fracking committee?

JACK
- Answer: NO

JAVE
- that should be indicated in the minutes

JACK -
"so noted."

Never was put in minutes



Fracking has its own educational

Concerned fracking citizens of York led the way.

On Dec. 7, 2012, Dave Neff, chairman of the York Town Planning Board, the York Town Board, the York Fracking Committee, the York highway superintendent, the York town lawyer, the York town engineer and guests from York took a bus tour to inspect the environmental impact of recent hydraulic-fracking practices in Pennsylvania.

What was seen on the bus trip was far from what was portrayed in the presentation from the Jan. 26 meeting. This trip was certainly educational in a "fracking experience."

Ask the people who were on the bus if what they saw was what they expected?

You really shouldn't tell "narrative" in front of your children.

**HENRY HELLER
YORK FRACKING
COMMITTEE**

April 2013

- The Medical Society of the State of New York, which represents the state's physicians and medical residents, has again called for a moratorium on hydrofracking in New York.

At its "House of Delegates" meeting in Tarrytown, Westchester County, last weekend, the group called for a continued moratorium on large-scale fracking and the implementation of an in-depth study of its health impacts by a state public health school.

"The issue of high volume hydraulic fracturing in New York State is an important public health issue for physicians throughout the state," Sam Unterricht, the Medical Society's new president, said in a statement. "The Medical Society and its respective county medical societies want the state to determine the potential public health impact on the environment and ground water in those areas where high volume hydraulic fracturing is proposed."

An interesting note: New York Health Commissioner Nirav Shah was one of the featured speakers at the House of Delegates meeting over the weekend. He's in the process of completing a review of the state's recommendations for fracking, and a decision on whether to allow it waits until his review is done.

Summary of Dr Matlin's
article given to Jack Ellis for
the Steering Committee

- never brought to committee
- never discussed
- never appeared in final report.

3) Jack Ellis:

Mr. Ellis addressed with the Board the ongoing manure spreading in the fields on Ellicott and Anderson Roads. Mr. Ellis stated the fields are completely saturated, and has concerns regarding contamination of wells in the area. Mr. Ellis asked what guidelines or permits farmers need to abide by. Supervisor Deming stated all guidelines, permits and enforcement is by way of New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Councilman Deuel suggested when having agricultural related issues, contact DEC directly or the farmer themselves. Mr. Ellis stated he spoke with Donnan's about the issue, each time was told they are adhering to their permit requirements. Supervisor Deming stated if the manure is entering streams, properties or flowing across roads, the Town and DEC should be notified for inspection.

Mr. Fuller expressed a recent encounter he had as well on Fowlerville Road. Several trucks were parked in the roadway while unloading manure to the field. Mr. Fuller asked the driver about moving the truck to the field itself because of the mess and was told it was too saturated to drive onto. Mr. Fuller questioned, how much is too much?

Mr. Ellis commented DEC and the Town Board need to be more aware of what's happening in the farming areas.

Mr. Ellis briefly discussed a recent audit meeting held by the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association. Many of the local cemeteries are dealing with financial struggles and would truly benefit from any/all donations. Their cemetery is pursuing fixed annuities in the hopes of trying to continue forward, but the road ahead is difficult.

Mr. Ellis asked the Board about the status of water for the Linwood area. Mr. Ellis conveyed that he sent a letter to the Livingston County and Monroe County Water Authorities outlining the water issues in the area, seeking any assistance. Although not receiving anything from Livingston County, he did receive a nice response letter from Monroe County, explaining that the Town level is the way to proceed. Supervisor Deming informed Mr. Ellis due to the major upgrades Monroe County would need to do (\$30 million), they unfortunately are not an option at this time.

Mr. Deming presented summary estimates based upon 39 residents in the district area:

**TOWN OF YORK
SUMMARY OF WATER SYSTEM COST ESTIMATES**

	Contractor Installed		Town Installed	
	SERVICE AREA WITH GRANT	SERVICE AREA WITHOUT GRANT	SERVICE AREA WITH GRANT	SERVICE AREA WITHOUT GRANT
TOTAL ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	\$1,169,300	\$1,169,300	\$1,052,370	\$1,052,370
RD GRANT	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$0
USDA-RD LOAN	\$669,300	\$1,169,300	\$552,370	\$1,052,370
INTEREST RATE	3.5%	4.375%	3.5%	4.375%
ANNUAL DEBT SERVICE	\$32,114	\$63,667	\$26,504	\$57,300
TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS	39	39	39	39

Mr. Ellis asked if the Town may be able to install the water main. Supervisor Deming replied, we had the engineers prepare a quote if the Town installed, but

Mr. Ellis asked if the Town may be able to install the water main. Supervisor Deming replied, we had the engineers prepare a quote if the Town installed, but feel the project is far too labor intensive, with Highway Superintendent, Mr. Worden estimating 3 years for completion.

Mr. Ellis asked if money from the desalinization plant could be used, which Supervisor Deming replied there is no money at this time. The funding available to us is through Rural Development. Mr. Deming added the average income can not exceed \$56,800.00 to qualify for grant funding, and currently the average in the Town of York is at \$60,000.00. The maximum the Town is legally able to charge each household per year is \$680.00, if the amount is over, State approval is required, and usually not granted. Supervisor Deming stated that the majority of our older pipe has been upgraded, with exception of the area on Route 36 in Wadsworth, which is a bit over 1 mile in distance. Mr. Deming stated with Monroe County not an option, we will need a pumping system to extend water to the Linwood area, which increases the cost further. Mr. Ellis asked if the Village of Geneseo could handle additional request for water from us. Supervisor Deming replied they could handle the additional consumption without issue. Mr. Deming stated these are the numbers we have, which are very high, now we need to let the residents know where we are at. Mr. Deming commented, sadly back in 2010 we thought with the possible assistance from Caledonia Diesel, we might be able to service part of Anderson Road, but when they decided not to proceed with water to the business further expansion discussion ceased.

Mr. Ellis stated to the Board in response to Mr. Nagel's comments this evening, he and the Steering Committee did their best for the York Community.

** With the absence of Mr. Worden no report was given for the Highway Department and Water/Sewer Departments this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Barn discussion:

Councilman Deuel commented at the February 13th Town Board Meeting, we discussed interest from Sue Smith regarding use of their renovated barn for community events. Mr. Deuel stated there are several barns in the township that

could potentially be refurbished, with numerous possibilities. The most important factor is to follow closely the existing codes in order address everything. Supervisor Deming commented additional questions will certainly take place through this process knowing this is new territory. Mr. Deming added, the Smith's were having an Engineer view the structure over the weekend, but we are not aware of the results as of yet.

NEW BUSINESS

1) Accident:

Supervisor Deming informed the Board that Highway employee, Francis Burger was injured on Tuesday, the 18th. Mr. Burger slipped and fell, splitting his head, ultimately needing the ambulance. Mr. Deming stated Mr. Burger was fortunate that a neighbor came upon him shortly after the incident, calling 911. Mr. Burger was hospitalized overnight but is resting comfortably at home now. We are unsure as to when he may return to work.

2) Work Session:

Supervisor Deming reminded the Board of the joint work session of the Town Board and the Planning Board scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00. Discussion will take place on the document prepared by Steering Committee, and all further suggestions and/or recommendations to it.

3) Health Insurance:

Supervisor Deming reported we were recently informed from our Health carrier, they will no longer offer the current Excellus packages, effective April 1, 2014. Once they have provided the Town with option information, we will then have to meet with the Union personnel to discuss how to proceed and what coverage to secure.

OTHER

1) Agricultural Information:

Councilman Deuel briefly stated at the February 13th meeting his desire to discuss further the Agricultural Districts Law, providing for reduced property tax for land in agricultural areas. Mr. Deuel commented the purpose of the tax exemptions or tax incentives is to keep agricultural strong and productive, but over paying for vacant land areas needs to be addressed prior to Assessor Sapienza's re-evaluation update.

Mr. Deuel reported there are 24 classes of exemptions (633 total number) at \$65,599,284.00 and 5 Agricultural related exemptions (340 total) at \$36,175,709.00. Exemptions of open land total \$30.8 million.

If the Town was to add the Light District to the General Fund, the increase would go from \$4.255 to \$4.354, eliminating the light tax and roughly increase the General line item by \$. 10 cents.

Mr. Fuller asked if the assessment is based on what we purchase it for, or what the Assessor thinks it is worth. Councilman Deuel replied the assessment is based upon the purchase price. Mr. Deuel suggested using agricultural

assessment value (open land, no buildings or residences) for fire tax, which would increase the rate from \$.79 cents to \$.92 cents per thousand, only an increase of \$.13 cents. Mr. Deuel reported from 2010-2014 agricultural value assessment has increased 22% and full value by 23%. Mr. Deuel outlined several towns where fire tax is less than town taxable; Caledonia, Geneseo, Lima, Mt. Morris and Nunda. The towns that have fire taxes greater than town tax roll; York, West Sparta, Springwater, Sparta, Portage, Ossian, Livonia, Leicester, Groveland, Conesus and Avon. A total of 265 calls were dispatched in the County in 2012-2013 of which 11 or 4% were outside/grass fires. The fire tax levy from 2010-2014 has increased \$15,600.00, which is an increase in town assessment by \$16 million dollars.

Mr. Deuel commented open land is paying more than their fair share of tax and wanted feedback from the Board before potential presentation to the public on the subject. Supervisor Deming stated due to the fact three members of the Town Board have agricultural area that could potentially benefit from this change, he feels an informational meeting should take place and then a public referendum held to determine the decision on the matter.

BILLS

RESOLUTION offered by Mrs. Parnell and seconded by Mr. Rose to approve all claims brought before the Board. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

• General Fund Claim	#71-83	\$10,252.28
• Joint Water/Sewer	#51-63	\$19,896.45
• Youth Fund Claim	#2	\$ 884.42
• Highway Fund Claim	#40-50	\$28,280.12

ADJOURNMENT

RESOLUTION offered by Mr. Gates and seconded by Mr. Deuel to adjourn the Town Board Meeting. Voted on and approved, Yes-5, No-0.

Town Board Meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine M. Harris, Clerk

