

STEBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Friday, April 22, 2011

11:00 a.m.

*Legislative Committee Room
Steuben County Office Building
Bath, New York*

****MINUTES****

COMMITTEE: Mark R. Alger Karl Anderson Amy Dlugos Joseph J. Hauryski
Kathryn Muller John Tunney

LEGISLATORS: K. Michael Hanna

ABSENT: David Erwin

OTHERS: Robert Popejoy Al Wahlig

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Alger called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2011, MEETING MADE BY MR. HAURYSKI. SECONDED BY MR. TUNNEY. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 6-0.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Alger asked if there were any individuals wishing to make public comment.

Mr. Wahlig stated the gas spill last week in Pennsylvania concerns him. The Finger Lakes Region is the number one freshwater tourist attraction in the world. When the fracking trucks come through, that will impact tourism. If we have a spill within the watershed, it could potentially affect the Chesapeake Bay. If a spill occurred in our watershed, the turnover time for the lake is approximately seven years. We need to address this issue as well. If there is a spill, that will be a big problem for the County. More stringent requirements need to be put into place in our area.

Mr. Tunney asked is the level of regulation really the State level as opposed to the local level? He commented that he understands the concern, but he is having trouble understanding the lines and who controls the regulations. Mr. Wahlig stated he doesn't think you can do anything specific, but you could do a resolution or at least pass your feelings along to someone higher. You could have some influence. You are not in control, but you can let your feelings be known.

Mr. Anderson commented this is an important consideration as tourism is an important factor in our economy.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Sub-Committee Reports

1. **Housing** – Ms. Muller informed the committee that they have completed their action plan. They have identified the following specific issues to address at the May meeting: education, affordability and availability of housing. We also will discuss the Site Plan Review. Mr. Alger commented the municipalities will have the opportunity to do what they want with the Site Plan Review. Ms. Muller stated that Mrs. Dlugos has taken the lead on working on a generic resource guide and we expect that to be available by mid-summer. We also would like to stress the importance and value of planning for the man camps. There are benefits, risks,

challenges and criteria that municipalities will need to look at. In addition, we would also like to address what these areas could be used for after the man camps leave.

Ms. Muller stated they have also talked about private landowners and how they would like them to get leases with the drilling companies to use their land for man camps. This is another issue the municipalities will need to be aware of. Mrs. Dlugos will do the mapping and identify vacant property in the County. At this point we do not know if those properties are usable or not.

Mrs. Dlugos commented that according to the Census data, we have a lot of vacant homes. There are 7,000 vacant buildings. Approximately half of those were seasonal. We are not sure what the other 3,500 are. Ms. Muller stated they would like to explore areas with current housing vendors to look at contracting for a certain number of beds over a certain time period. This would be another option for us when we have emergency homeless or evictions. Mr. Alger commented if the housing vendors would agree, that would be a good idea.

Mrs. Dlugos stated that she has met with Meghan Thoreau who is a Planner with Southern Tier Central (STC) and they are looking to put together a six-page guide for local planning boards with links specifically geared toward the towns in the southern part of the County that currently do not have any regulations in place. We will keep this guide very short and simple and will also work with Chemung and Schuyler counties. Mr. Anderson asked how many towns in the southern part of the county don't have planning boards? Mrs. Dlugos replied the majority of them. She expects to have this six-page guide put together by June or July.

Mr. Alger stated at the May meeting with the municipalities he would like to discuss the Road Use Agreement and the Site Plan Review. Separate from this, Mrs. Dlugos will hold meetings with the Planning Boards.

Mr. Hauryski commented the Town Boards are waiting to hear what the County is going to be doing. He stated that he thinks the agenda we have is something they will be interested in. This will be a cooperative effort across the board. Mr. Alger stated the meeting with the municipalities will be held on May 26th at 6:00 p.m. in the Civil Defense Center. This meeting will be for the Town Supervisors and Town Highway Superintendents. He commented we are sending out the Road Use Agreement and the Site Plan Review with the letter inviting them to the May 26th meeting.

2. **Public Safety** – Mr. Tunney stated it appears that Mr. Sprague and Mike Wilson from Chemung County are getting training themselves and are also making arrangements for having the gas companies commit to putting on training for a broader audience.

Mr. Tunney stated that he had mentioned to Mike Sprague that our group will need to meet prior to the May 26th meeting so we can get together specific information to present. He hopes to give the group specific information on the available resources and dates for training. It is very important that the responders have some understanding of the nature of the emergency situations at the gas well sites, but they will need a definition of their role. The gas companies have immediate response resources. It is important that the local responders understand the interaction between them and the gas companies. We will need to put into place an educational process.

Mr. Alger stated Mr. Sprague and Mr. Wilson are attending training to get certified to train emergency responders. He would ask them to consider how they believe we would roll out the training for the volunteers. He would at least want to train the management structure in each department. We need to think about how best to do that. The regular Chief's meeting would be a good place to start. We will need to look at how much time it will take and develop an action plan.

3. **Roads & Infrastructure** – Mr. Anderson stated the website has the latest version of the Road Use Agreement. We are still discussing how to get everyone to the table. This is a legal use of the roads and they are not overweight trucks. The issue is the volume. Mr. Alger stated in his discussions with Mr. Spagnoletti, we may call them Road Repair Agreements because in the law, we are not allowed to require Road Use Agreements. We are working on a Local Law at the County level that would require each gas company to get a permit for their

use of the roads. As part of the permit, we would require them to enter into a Road Use/Road Repair Agreement. This would be more a company permit, rather than requiring a permit for each vehicle.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. *Meeting with Town Supervisors/Town Highway Superintendents* – Mr. Alger stated the meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, May 26, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. and will be held at the Civil Defense Center. He anticipates that each sub-committee will give a report, we will talk about the Road Use Agreement and Site Plan Review and then have a question/answer period.

Mr. Hauryski commented in the presentations, he would like for the Town Supervisors and Town Highway Superintendents to see that the presenters show that they have identified the potential issues and have plans to address them. He stated that he hopes we have covered many of the issues and then we can let the municipalities identify any other issues. The question/answer period will be the biggest part of that meeting. He commented that the generic planning guide will be an excellent tool.

Mr. Alger stated we may not want to call it a planning guide. Perhaps we could identify it as a Marcellus Shale Preparation Guide. Mrs. Dlugos stated the guide will start with the issues that we have identified and what has happened in other states. Mr. Hauryski stated it may be of value to have someone come in and speak who has lived through the process in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Anderson commented that he could envision having this meeting and then having a meeting with the Planning Boards. They will need time to digest all of this information. Then we could have a meeting with some first-hand testimony. Mr. Hauryski stated that he would like to encourage the Legislators to be contacting their town representatives about this meeting and encouraging them to attend.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. *Selling Water to Gas Drilling Companies* – Mr. Popejoy commented that Painted Post is looking to sell one million gallons of water to a company in Pennsylvania. That would take two hundred trucks off the road. Will you be looking at that option for reducing the truck load on the highways?

Mr. Alger replied he doesn't know that we can influence that too much. We have a limited amount of rail services, but this is still an opportunity to use what we do have. Mr. Popejoy asked if Mr. Alger would mind if he investigated this and passed information along to the committee? Mr. Alger replied no, he wouldn't mind. Mr. Alger commented it is likely the gas companies will look for other municipal water supplies and there are a few of them. Most of them are relatively small. He commented that water withdrawal is regulated by the Susquehanna River Basin. Discussion followed.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held on Monday, May 16, 2011, at 11:00 a.m.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY MR. TUNNEY. SECONDED BY MR. HAURYSKI. ALL BEING IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIES 6-0.

Respectfully submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature