

STEBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday, November 5, 2010

11:00 a.m.

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

****MINUTES****

Sub-Committee: John Tunney, Chair
Chief Sal Trentanelli
Sheriff Joel Ordway
Mike Sprague
Mike Wilson

Advisory Members: Al Wahlig

Steering Committee Members: Amy Dlugos

Staff: Tina Goodwin

Other: Edward Young
Russ Miller
Dan Hamilton

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

Mr. Wilson reported the Volunteer Fire Departments in the Southern part of the County are in the preliminary stages of developing strategies to deal with issues that arise from the gas wells. He encouraged the Volunteer Fire Departments to send a representative to the training that T&R Towing are having regarding heavy metals and recovery of heavy rigs.

Sheriff Ordway reported he has developed two contacts with the Pennsylvania State Police who are willing to speak with the Committee about the issues they have had, particularly in Bradford County, with increased alcohol related crimes, domestics, accidents and V&T violations. Because we are dealing with people from so many different states that he believes it would be best to promote the education of the New York State Laws. For example: open container, ATV's in the roadways, which towns have local laws, etc. Mr. Young stated that some companies are putting together packets with information regarding the laws in the area and requiring their employees to read and sign for them.

Mr. Tunney reported that the Tioga County DA is willing to share with our committee their experiences with the drilling enterprise. He also stated that alcohol related offenses seem to be the most noticeable aspect of the drilling activity.

Mr. Tunney & Mr. Sprague reported that Tioga County is currently trying to track the increase of incidences and how they are related to the gas industry. Mr. Sprague stated that it is very difficult for the 911 Center to differentiate the normal traffic from gas well related traffic unless they take place at the well when they do not get the end result. For example: who owns the vehicles in the accident. Mr. Tunney stated that his contacts in the Tioga County DA's office believe they do have a way to help identify incidences that are related to the gas industry.

Mr. Sprague reported that he has been in contact with the Tioga County 911 Center and in the past year Tioga County's call volume is down but the number of incidences is up. Tioga County has reported 6 Major EMS related activities associated with the drilling operations, 3 of which involved the use of a helicopter.

Mr. Sprague stated that he is waiting on a list of Contact Personnel for the companies Tioga County has been dealing with to see if one will come and do training for us. Wild Well Control is currently working with the State of Pennsylvania Fire Training Center. Mr. Sprague stated that he has a meeting in 3 weeks with the NY State Fire Academy. Currently we have to call out for assistance on a well fire. Steuben County deals with the exposure of the fire because we do not have the specific training for the well fire itself.

Mr. Sprague stated he spoke with Joe Yaris, DEC Gas, about the companies that currently have permits out there. There is no process in the permitting for the companies to contact Steuben County to get an address for the drill site. Mr. Young stated when a gas company files for a permit they are required to follow all the local laws and regulations. He suggested that the Steuben County Legislature pass a local law making it a mandatory part of the permit process to inform the County where the well site will be and to receive an address.

Mr. Sprague stated he is also waiting for a list of the chemicals that have been reported to Tioga County. Mr. Miller stated that he could also supply Mr. Sprague with a generic list of chemicals that are used. Mr. Sprague stated he is also working on setting up a site visit. Mr. Miller stated that Talisman and Shell will be fracking a well in mid December about 1.5 miles south of the Caton/Pennsylvania border. He will help set up a meeting. Mr. Tunney suggested that the committee tour a site and speak with the people on-site to have some concrete basis to talk about, and help decide, what we want to put in place in Steuben County.

Mr. Young stated the smaller gas companies are not as sophisticated as the larger companies and do not have anything in place. Mr. Miller stated that the smaller companies are more lenient on their safety regulations. Mr. Young suggested going to the larger companies and asking what their safety regulations are.

Mr. Tunney stated he is meeting with the Tioga County DA and will be setting up a meeting with the Bradford County DA. Mr. Miller stated he will be contacting Tom Cassetta of Talisman to set up a meeting between their safety personnel and this committee and he will relay that information through Mr. Sprague.

Mr. Wilson stated that while he was at a safety seminar, one of the items on OSHA's 2011 local efforts list was gas exploration and drilling and to ensure people are working safely.

V. NEXT MEETING

Mr. Tunney offered Friday, January 7th at 11:00 a.m. for the next meeting and the committee concurred.

Mr. Tunney adjourned the meeting at 11:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Crystal L. Woodworth
Senior Typist
Steuben County E911