

STEBEN COUNTY NATURAL GAS TASK FORCE PUBLIC SAFETY SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday, September 24, 2010

11:00 a.m.

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

****MINUTES****

<u>Sub-Committee:</u>	John Tunney, Chair Joel Ordway Mike Sprague Dave Hopkins Mike Wilson Sal Trentanelli	<u>Advisory Members:</u>	Al Wahlig
		<u>Steering Committee Members:</u>	Patrick Donnelly, Chair Mark R Alger Amy Dlugos

Others: Carol Ferratella
Len McConnell
Edward Young

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

John Tunney, District Attorney and Chairman
Mike Wilson, Deputy Fire Coordinator
Dave Hopkins, E911 Director
Mike Sprague, Office of Emergency Services Director and Fire Coordinator
Joel Ordway, Sheriff
Sal Trentanelli, Chief of Police, City of Corning

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Topics for Discussion – Mr. Tunney informed the committee that their purpose is to explore the Public Safety aspects of the Natural Gas Drilling Process so they will be able to anticipate issues that will arise and devise steps to prepare for the situations that are identified.

Mr. Tunney asked for the committee to review the list of topics and determine who would look into each topic and the process that it would be handled.

- Increased crime, traffic collisions, traffic infractions: Sheriff Ordway will be looking into all 3 issues and Mr. Wilson will be assisting with the traffic collisions issue. Sheriff Ordway stated they could do some crime study initially to see if it is out-of-towners, workers from the crews, etc. Mr. McConnell suggested the formation of a County Wide Response Team for Gas Well Emergencies.

Mr. Young stated that East Resources has already applied for a number of permits that are on hold for the Rexville, West Union Area. The permits are just on hold till the SGIS is completed and then they will be automatically granted.

Mr. Sprague said that while he and Mr. Hopkins were meeting with Tioga County Emergency Management regarding Hazmat issues, they were informed that the largest things that they are seeing is traffic accidents and serious accidents at the drill sites due to types of equipment being used and a lot transportation issues.

- Increased complaint calls-noise, strangers, etc: Sheriff Ordway and Chief Trentanelli will be looking into these issues.
- Hazardous materials, storage and spills, haul routes, exposure to volunteers: Mr. Sprague and Mr. Hopkins will be looking into these issues. Mr. Sprague stated that Mr. Hopkins and he have already met with Tioga County Emergency Management regarding some of these issues. Tioga County informed them that the gas companies have been pretty open with them as far as Hazmat.
- Communication with the gas industry about drilling sites, gas flaring, etc: Mr. Sprague & Mr. Hopkins will be looking into these issues.

Mr. Sprague stated that it's very important that 911 and the Office of Emergency Services are notified when a gas company is planning to do a flare and when they are putting in a new site. Mr. Young stated that DEC issues all the permits and suggested that we meet with Jack Dahl, Head of Minerals, or Tom Noll, Head of Permits, or their boss Linda Collart in Avon. Mr. Young also stated that the DEC website lists all the permits that have been issued.

- Need to assign 911 addresses – Mr. Hopkins will be looking into this issue. Mr. Hopkins said that he would treat this the same as the Wind Turbine project in Cohocton by proactively meeting with the companies prior to construction to find out where each site will be. At the time 911 will assign the appropriate physical addresses and add them to the 911 System as common places.
- Increased EMS calls: Mr. Sprague will be looking into this issue. Mr. Tunney stated that it would be helpful if we could identify which calls are related to the gas companies coming into the area and which calls are not. Mr. Hopkins stated that we have already had some calls related to the gas companies. Mr. Alger asked if Mr. Hopkins could code 911 calls related to the Gas Well Industry for report data, Mr. Hopkins agreed. Mr. Sprague suggested getting EMS data from Pennsylvania. Sheriff Ordway stated that they meet monthly with the Pennsylvania Police and he will ask for the data.
- Training: new hazardous substances, unfamiliar equipment and sites: Mr. Sprague will be looking into these issues. Mr. Young stated that Tioga County has not had a rig go down yet but Bradford, Susquehanna, Potter and King Counties have. Mr. Young stated that it takes specialized training when a rig goes down. Mr. Sprague asked if the gas companies do most of it or if it is on us? Mr. Young stated that the gas companies do help some with the finance and training and suggested that we discuss that with them when we meet with them from the start. Pennsylvania has been talking about forming some teams but has not done so yet. Texas, Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana do have teams in place. Mr. Young suggested that we contact Schlumberger & Halliburton about the list of chemicals on site and when they are being transported.
- Access when roads are impassable: Mr. Sprague will be looking into these issues. Mr. Sprague stated that this would be much like logging and farm accident responses.
- Coordination in case of fire or explosion: Mr. Sprague, Mr. Wilson and Sheriff Ordway will be looking into this issue.
- Loss of employees/volunteers to the gas industry: This is just for everyone's recognition.
- Need for additional law enforcement patrols: Sheriff Ordway and Chief Trentanelli will be looking into these issues. Sheriff Ordway stated that they could look into more intensified traffic patrol with grants. Chief Trentanelli stated they could look into writing some new grants.
- Fielding and directing questions and concerns from the public regarding safety issues: Mr. Tunney will be looking into these issues.

- Pressure on local legal system, increased caseload for courts, Public Defender, DA: Mr. Tunney will be looking into these issues.
- Training in response for various services: All members will be looking into this issue.

B. Designation of Vice Chair - Mr. Tunney announced the appointment of Sal Trentanelli as Vice Chair.

C. Setting Regular Meeting Schedule – Mr. Tunney and Chief Trentanelli discussed and the committee decided that it was in the best interest to wait until next month to set a regular schedule.

Mr. Sprague asked if we could schedule a trip to Pennsylvania to discuss specific Public Safety issues? Mr. Tunney suggested even sub-groups. Mr. Wilson stated that he would like to speak to Fire Chiefs of the communities that have had gas rigs collapse to see how they handled them. Mr. Sprague will contact Tioga County and Bradford County Emergency Management to put together a group with Law Enforcement.

Sheriff Ordway stated he would reach out to the committee in Pennsylvania and County Sheriff's to see who is best to get together with to talk about potential problems.

Mr. Tunney stated that he would like to see one or more meetings set up before the next meeting.

Mrs. Woodworth read the reminder of the next Steering Committee meeting being held on October 8, 2010 at 1:30 in the Legislative Chambers featuring a presentation by Bill Kappel, USGS.

The question was asked why the State Police were not represented at the meeting. Chief Trentanelli stated that Sheriff Ordway and he will be coordinating with them and that the State is currently reorganizing their zone. Mr. Donnelly stated that the absence of the State Police was not intentional on either their part or ours.

V. **NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Tunney offered Friday, November 5th at 11:00 a.m. for the next meeting. The Committee agreed.

Mr. Tunney adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Crystal L. Woodworth
Senior Typist
Steuben County E911