

Regular Meeting of the Ledyard Town Board
December 9, 2013
Ledyard Town Hall, 1099 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY 13026

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm. All Council Members present.

PRESENT: Mark Jordan, Supervisor
Bill Heary, Councilman
Jim Frisch, Councilman
John Binns, Councilman
Paul Hilliard, Councilman
Jim Bailey, Highway Superintendent
Rose Marie Belforti, Town Clerk

OTHERS: Daniel Green, Dixon Road, Aurora
Linda Simkin, Sands Rd., Aurora

PLEDGE-REMEMBER TROOPS

PRIVILEGE FROM THE FLOOR: Councilman Bill Heary is resigning from the Town Board as of January 1, 2014. Daniel Green came before the Town Board to express interest in the position. Linda Simkin appeared before the Town Board with concerns regarding the Hydro-Fracking Moratorium. She is concerned about drilling companies coming to this area with waste water. She said Legislator George Fearon stated that our town needs something in place so that we are prepared from this possibility. Linda said that Scipio and Niles have a ban for heavy industry that they would share what they have with us so we would not have to write one.

APPROVE MINUTES: On motion by Jim Frisch, seconded by Bill Heary, the Minutes for November 2013 were approved with an amendment to Adjournment: seconded by John Binns, and: TOWN COUNCIL RESIGNATION letter of resignation from Bill Heary, Town Council member.
VOTE: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

APPROVE REPORTS: On motion by Jim Frisch, seconded by John Binns, the Supervisor, Clerk and Code reports for November, 2013 were approved as submitted.
VOTE: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

ANNEXATION: On motion by Paul Hilliard, seconded by Jim Frisch, the Town Board of Ledyard accepted a written document denying the removal of moving Ledyard property into the Town of Springport, NY.
VOTE: 4 Ayes, 1 Abstention (Bill Heary).

HIGHWAY REPORT: Superintendent Jim Bailey would like to bring the new employee's pay up to equal that of the other highway employees. The Town Board suggested changing it in 2014.

MORATORIUM: Councilman Jim Frisch reminded the Town Board that they have been "chewing on" the gas drilling issues for two years with most of the discussion on the technical aspects, risks, and drilling methods. He said he has been attending meetings for years and finds that on any given aspect of the topic there are different expert opinions. Some say they have never seen a casing fail, others say a casing will eventually fail or have failed. Failed casings occurred in PA. Jim said that we are looking at

significant climate change as we go forward. Jim is of the opinion that drilling should be banned – period – because it makes a statement, we are standing up to be counted. He said, "taking a stand is significant so that if people are counting, they know how are we going to be counted". Jim wants to ban all drilling in Ledyard and says it carries no burden on anyone in the Town of Ledyard. It costs nothing from an economic point of view.

Councilman Bill Heary said that laws can always be changed. Some people think that once you ban it, it is forever, as prohibition...no law is forever. Since there is no concern for drilling, which could be true for 50 to 100 years, he said, there is no need to make a law that does not address something that is not happening. Bill does not believe in setting rules on people concerning something that won't affect them for many years.

Linda Simkin said that if there is a ban on heavy industry, it could also be changed later.

Councilman John Binns said that we did not waste time talking about this issue. He said that he does not dispute global warming, but is not totally convinced that if humans do anything it will change anything. The earth has grown cold and warm many times in history and he does not want to make a decision based on global warming. John would rather have a referendum and see what the Town of Ledyard residents think.

Councilman Paul Hilliard agrees with John Binns on a referendum. He said that we do not know what tomorrow brings. The people of Ledyard should be able to say yes or no.

END OF YEAR BREAKFAST: The End of Year Breakfast is scheduled for Tuesday, December 31st, 2013 at 9:00 am.

PAY BILLS: On motion by Jim Frisch, seconded by Paul Hilliard, the bills on Abstract #012, 226-247; A=\$3,682.06; B=\$44.98; \$DA=0; \$DB=\$34,318.31 were approved for payment.

VOTE: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

ADJOURN: On motion by Jim Frisch, seconded by John Binns, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose Marie Belforti
Ledyard Town Clerk