

TOWN OF OTEGO

January 23, 2013

The Town Board of the town of Otego held a special board meeting on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Otego Municipal Building, 3526 State Highway 7, Otego, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to hear those for and against Local Law #1 of 2013 to establish a moratorium on gas drilling and related practices for one year in the town of Otego.

The following members were present:

Joseph Hurlburt	Town Supervisor
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
George Dolezel	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Maryalice Brown	Town Clerk

Mr. Hurlburt thanked all for their interest and opened the hearing:

Teresa Winchester from the town of Butternuts supports a moratorium.

Dwight Dolezel supports the moratorium. His concern is clean water.

Matt Reiss, town of Butternuts, supports a moratorium.

Tammy Reiss, town of Butternuts, supports a moratorium, with a concern for agriculture.

Ean Mitchell supports a moratorium.

Carol Piciullo, town of Laurens, supports a moratorium.

Kristina Turechek, town of Laurens, supports a moratorium.

Patrick McEllicut, representing the Indian nation, supports a moratorium, with a concern about water.

Bob Braun is against a moratorium. He wants the right to develop his land as he sees fit.

Ruby Mitchell supports a moratorium, her concern is environmental damage.

Stacia Norman, town of Morris, supports a moratorium.

Irmabelle Sheldon see no need for a moratorium.

Barbara Loeffler, town of Davenport, supports a moratorium, and is concerned about property rights.

Dick Downey is against a moratorium. Everything is uncertain because of pending court cases at the state level, and a moratorium is not necessary at this time.

Dan Adelman is against a moratorium. He encouraged board members to see drilling areas for themselves.

Anna Hein did not speak to the moratorium law. She had questions about the minutes, the taking of minutes, and if the board was taking notes.

Bob Birch opposes a moratorium.

Kaima Nelson-Bowne, town of Franklin, supports a moratorium.

Mother Michaela supports a moratorium.

Janet Glantz supports a moratorium. Her concern is health issues and she feels the DEC regulations are flawed.

Mark Dye is opposed to a moratorium, and doesn't want the board to negate the economic benefits of drilling to the area.

Ron Bishop, town of Middlefield, supports a moratorium. He feels the DEC is under resourced and understaffed.

Carol O'Hara supports a moratorium. The board needs to start working on this issue and maybe form committees to help with a study.

Heriberto Rodriguez, town of Butternuts, supports a moratorium. This will allow the town to plan for the future.

Carole Marner, town of Franklin, supports a moratorium. She doesn't want the region to become an extraction economy and she is concerned about agriculture.

Brian Foley supports a moratorium and home rule. The gas companies are too powerful and the issue needs to be explored.

Howard Hannam, town of Sidney Center, supports a moratorium and home rule, not companies and government.

Patricia Jacob, town of Oneonta, supports a moratorium, her concern being health effects.

Kathy Holmstrom supports a moratorium.

Gail Dubois supports a moratorium. There has been no long term studies of health hazards and the chemicals used.

Murray Bell supports a moratorium. He feels the SGEIS is flawed and towns must protect themselves.

Clark Rhoades supports a moratorium, his concern are the failure of casings used in the drilling process.

Lois Chernin is opposed to a moratorium. She claims that studies show that water contamination near well sites have been from other sources, and that a rural heritage cannot be a reason to stop gas drilling.

Dennis Higgins supports a moratorium. He has concerns about water quality and feels that much of the gas from drilling is likely to be sent out of the US to China and Europe.

Martha Bremer supports a moratorium. We need to protect the health of children and the community.

Carol Rachag, town of Butternuts, supports a moratorium. She presented the town board with 58 emails from residents of the town of Butternuts supporting a moratorium.

Anne Siegel, town of Unadilla, supports a moratorium. She wants to retain the rural character of the area.

Janice Cragolin, town of Unadilla, supports a moratorium. She is concerned about the chemicals used.

John Davis, town of Middlefield, supports a moratorium. He has health concerns.

Loddie Marsh, supports a moratorium. She has water and environmental concerns. She doesn't think we would see any profit.

Pete Bevilacqua, town of Franklin, supports a moratorium. Gas companies are too powerful.

Marie Lusins opposes a moratorium. The Otego comprehensive plan states that the community

should work to be sustainable. Does the board have a plan for the future? We need to encourage, not discourage, business.

Barbara Lilley, town of Butternuts, is opposed to a moratorium. Gas drilling is not a dire emergency and we should be aware of possible legal challenges.

Nelson Dubois supports a moratorium. He doesn't see that we will benefit from the ad valorem tax.

Heidi Stanton, town of Morris, supports a moratorium. She has a concern about water.

Kimberly More is opposed to a moratorium. She feels the ad valorem tax would benefit the community.

Dennis Stahl supports a moratorium.

Kelly Branigan, town of Middlefield, supports a moratorium. The town needs to look at the science and study the information available.

Norman Farwell, town of Butternuts, supports a moratorium.

The town board thanked all for their comments.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to close the hearing.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Hearing closed 8:20 pm.

Maryalice Brown  
Town Clerk

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\_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson

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