

The Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees met in special session at the Bainbridge Town Hall on February 7, 2008. Those present were trustees Mr. Matthew J. D. Lynch, Mr. Jeffrey S. Markley, Ms. Linda W. White and Fiscal Officer Susan R. Angelino. Mr. Lynch presided and called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The trustees met in special session to discuss the gas well explosion on December 15, 2007 and resulting water problems on English Drive and surrounding streets, including the Bainbridge Police Department, and to consider any other necessary business.

The trustees met with ODNR representatives, State Senator Tim Grendell, Geauga County Health Commissioner Robert Weisdack and residents from English Drive, Kingswood Drive and Scotland Drive.

A gas well leak and explosion occurred on December 15, 2007 on English Drive after a gas well was drilled by Ohio Valley Energy. ODNR is committed to doing a thorough investigation that will answer all residents' concerns. Ohio Valley Energy evacuated 26 residents immediately after the explosion. ODNR said that after the explosion, changes were made to the permit process. Inspectors will do more monitoring and have more controls on completion of wells.

In 2004 H.B. 278 established ODNR as sole permitting authority for wells drilled in Ohio. Before that, it was local control. Senator Grendell said that he and other legislative representatives are reviewing rules and regulations for gas and oil drilling.

ODNR described an overview of the drilling process. They told residents that gas is still being detected but they are monitoring the well to determine if it will have an effect on the aquifer.

Bob Weisdack, Geauga County Health Commissioner is continuing to collect samples of water wells for bacterial testing. Residents expressed concerns regarding what else is in the water besides gas and bacteria, how long before their wells are safe and can they drink the water?

ODNR said they will continue to monitor wells as long as necessary and they will provide better communication with residents.

Since there was no further business to come before this meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 P.M.