

The Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees met in regular session at the Bainbridge Town Hall on June 9, 2008. Those present were trustees Mr. Matthew J. D. Lynch and Ms. Linda W. White and Fiscal Officer Sandra M. Cloninger. Mr. Jeffrey S. Markley was absent. Mr. Lynch presided and called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

PRESENTATION BY GUESTS

Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR)

Mr. Lynch stated that the agenda for this regular session had been mostly cleared for a discussion with representatives from ODNR about gas and oil drilling in the township. Of particular concern were two new permits in the Tanglewood Subdivision and one near Lake Lucerne for wells not yet drilled.

The ODNR presentation addressed two general topics: a permit issued for a new well to be drilled and an update on the English Drive well that had caused an explosion on December 15, 2007.

Mr. Rick Simmers, the ODNR Northern Ohio Field Manager summarized events to date having to do with the English Drive well accident. He stated that the monitoring of the water wells in the vicinity of the explosion has continued to date because the area aquifer had been charged with pressurized gas escaping from the English Drive well casing. There are 17 temporary water supplies in place and ODNR is working with the Geauga County Health Department to bring the ground water back to normal. ODNR is working on the final section of its report to determine cause and effect and analyzing the water chemistry.

Several residents expressed concern that tests do not appear to be done according to schedule and test data is not made available to them. There was a discussion of the difficulties with communication of test results and Mr. Husted said he would look into how communication could be improved. ODNR described the turbidity in the water as being caused by a bubble of natural gas moving around underground, causing intermittent problems, with some water wells improving and some worsening.

Mr. Scott Kell of ODNR spoke about the 3 pending wells that have been permitted. Two permits were issued prior to the December 15th accident. All three permits were issued to Summit Petroleum, owned by Mr. Bill Kinney. A discussion ensued about geologic protection zones for aquifers and safety measures that need to be taken during drilling. ODNR stated that the English well incident was not primarily due to geology but was mostly caused by improper drilling procedures resulting in confinement of high pressure gas within the annular space between two parts of the well casing.

Residents expressed concern about the adequacy of regulatory monitoring during the drilling of wells in particular regarding the three new ones to be drilled. ODNR has issued additional special permit conditions for the new wells involving various engineering requirements. Several residents inquired as to when their water would be safe to drink. ODNR stated they focus on whether there is ongoing evidence of gas and oil contamination in the water and that water quality itself is a health department issue.

Trustee Lynch questioned the adequacy of insurance for gas drilling activities and stated that there would be no economically sufficient source of repair should the aquifers for Tanglewood and Lake Lucerne be ruined. He said that he would have preferred ODNR to have at least spoken to Bainbridge residents before issuing a new permit.

A discussion of well inspection timing and procedures ensued, with Mr. Kell saying that ODNR has a priority matrix and that the wells are inspected 6 to 10 times at benchmark points.

Trustee White inquired into the number of wells drilled in the area and asked whether old plugged wells might be unplugged and reactivated. Mr. Kell said that there would need to be a permit for that. Trustee White also mentioned that there is documentation that the Bainbridge Police Department well was contaminated by pressured gas just before the English Drive incident. ODNR agreed that the Police Department's water well was affected by OVE English well problem.

Trustee Lynch moved for a recess at 9:33 P.M. Trustee White seconded.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:45 P.M.

TOWN HALL/OTHER

0013-2008 Mr. Lynch moved that the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees authorize the Fiscal Officer to request an advance of the real estate taxes, second half collection, in the maximum amounts available in the General, Road and Bridge, Fire District and Police District Funds upon receipt of the schedule of dates for advances as determined by the Geauga County Auditor.

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

0014-2008 Mr. Lynch moved to approve a purchase order request for payment of \$14,462 to the Frank Gates Company for its services in regard to worker's compensation insurance administration. (P.O. #157-2008)

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

0015-2008 Mr. Lynch moved to approve and sign the agreement with the Geauga County Commissioners allowing Bainbridge to use the McFarland Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant property as a fireworks launching site for the township July 4th, 2008 celebration.

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

0016-2008 Mr. Lynch moved to approve a Professional Training Request in the amount of \$100.00 for Patrolman John Bodovetz to attend an O.P.O.T.A. class on July 23, 2008 - July 24, 2008 in Richfield on arrests, search warrants, search and seizures.

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

0017-2008 Mr. Lynch moved to approve a purchase order request in the amount of \$1215.00 to Sunrise Springs for water for the Police Department holding tank for May, 2008. (P.O. #152-2008)

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

0018-2008 Mr. Lynch moved to review and sign checks No. 11334 through 11396.

Ms. White seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

PARKS

0019-2008 Ms. White moved that the trustees address raising prices at Centerville Mills.

Ms. Lynch seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

0020-2008 Ms. White moved to raise the security deposit for Bainbridge Town Hall rental to \$250.

Mr. Lynch seconded the motion that passed unanimously.

Since there was no further business to come before this meeting of the Bainbridge Township Board of Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 P.M.