

**DRAFT**  
**MINUTES**  
**OF**  
**THE TOWN OF RENSSELAERVILLE TOWN BOARD**  
**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**GAS DRILLING MORATORIUM**  
**NOVEMBER 18, 2014**

The Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville held a Public Hearing on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2014 at 7:08 in the evening at the Rensselaerville Town Hall, 87 Barger Road, Medusa, NY. The meeting was convened by Supervisor Lounsbury and the roll was called with the following results:

**PRESENT WERE:** Supervisor Valerie Lounsbury  
Councilman Robert Bolte  
Councilwoman Margaret Sedlmeir  
Councilman Gerald Wood  
Councilwoman Marion Cooke  
Town Clerk Victoria H. Kraker

Also present were a total of five interested citizens as well as Highway Superintendent Randy Bates.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2014 – A Local Law continuing a one-year moratorium on Gas Drilling in the Town of Rensselaerville.

Supervisor Lounsbury read a portion of the proposed Local Law as follows:

Local Law No. 2 of 2014 of the Town of Rensselaerville known as the Gas Drilling Moratorium of 2014 of the Town of Rensselaerville.

The purpose of this law is to continue an existing one-year moratorium, set forth in Local Law No.3 of 2011 of the Town of Rensselaerville and renewed again in Local Law No. 2 of 2012 and in Local Law No. 2 of 2013, to temporarily suspend the administrative review, approval process and/or drilling activities associated with the production of natural gas on lands located in the Town of Rensselaerville for either new or pending proposals or activities regarding gas drilling. Pursuant to the statutory powers vested in the Town of Rensselaerville to regulate and control land use and to protect the health, safety and welfare of its residents, the Town Board of the Town of Rensselaerville hereby declares an additional one-year moratorium on the drilling for or extraction of natural gas within that subterranean area known as the Marcellus Shale or any other shale

deposits located on or under land in the Town of Rensselaerville by the process commonly known as high-volume hydraulic fracturing.

**Public Comments:**

Supervisor Lounsbury read an email from John Mormile as follows:  
“I understand that on November 18, the Town Board will hold its hearing on extending the town’s fracking moratorium. Unfortunately, I am away all week, so I will not be able to attend the meeting. However, I will be there is spirit. I urge the Board to extend the moratorium so that a potential ban on fracking and all heavy industry in our township can be discussed in connection with the total, proposed zoning law changes. I thank you and the Board members for your consideration in this matter.  
Sincerely, John Mormile”

**Jeannette Rice:** thanked the Board for the opportunity and for bringing the moratorium up for a vote once again. Speaking for both herself and her husband, she hopes the Board will pass this law again so that the Town can have the necessary safeguards in place to protect the Town’s sense of space, land, clean air, water, and rural way of living. She thanks the Board again for their consideration.

**Georgette Koenig** would like to see the moratorium made permanent. She is very worried about the water. She also noted that violations are only \$100/day. That is nothing to a gas company and she feels that amount would not deter them if they really wanted to come in. She asked if that amount could be increased. Supervisor Lounsbury stated she would check into that.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Supervisor Lounsbury to close the Public Hearing, but allow and accept written comments until November 25, 2014. The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

A motion was made by Councilman Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 PM; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilwoman Sedlmeir.

*Motion carried: Ayes (5) Lounsbury, Bolte, Sedlmeir, Wood, and Cooke; Nays (0)*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED;**

Victoria H. Kraker  
Town Clerk