

September 10, 2008

The regular meeting of the Preston Town Board was held on Wednesday, Sept. 10, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the Preston Town Hall.

Those present were:

Peter Flanagan – Supervisor Peter Mason – Councilman
Patricia Wakefield – Councilman Charles Stein, Sr. – Hwy. Supt.
Deanna Johnson – Town Clerk

Mr. Mason made the motion to approve the Town Clerks minutes. Seconded by Mrs. Wakefield and carried.

Mr. Mason made the motion to approve the Supervisors Report. Seconded by Mrs. Wakefield and carried.

Mr. Mason made the motion authorizing the Town Clerk to certify Abstract #9 containing General Fund Audits Nos. 104-111 totaling \$1,939.94, Dog Fund #6 for \$75.00 and Highway Funds Nos. 161-170 totaling \$18,471.26 and authorize the Supervisor to pay said claims. Seconded by Mrs. Wakefield and carried.

Mr. Flanagan stated that no requests had come through for any seismic testing in the Town of Preston.

Mr. Flanagan presented the board with the building report.

Mr. Mason offered the following resolution:

Urging the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to implement regulations that require local government to be designated as involved agencies during state environmental quality review act SEQRA proceedings for natural gas permit applications at proposed sites within local government jurisdictions; and that the opinions of local governments be sought and given significant weight when determinations on natural gas permit applications are made:

WHEREAS. It is estimated that the geologic rock bed known as Marcellus Shale is a proficient and comparably cost-effective source of energy, and is projected to contain up to several trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and

WHEREAS. Drastic escalation in the price of crude oil and the corresponding need to reduce our nations' dependence on foreign oil have led to notable increase in interest and activity concerning natural gas exploration and drilling in our region, and

WHEREAS. Local municipalities in which natural gas drilling is proposed should be consulted about gas drilling permit applications, as such municipalities are uniquely familiar with both the positive and negative effects natural gas exploration can have upon property and populace; and that great consideration shall be given to the opinion and comments of area residents and municipal officials, and will be strongly considered and given significant weight when natural gas permit applications determinations are made, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED. That the Town of Preston hereby requests that the New York State DEC implement regulations requiring local governments to be designated as involved agencies for SEQRA proceedings relating to natural gas permit applications for proposed sites within local government boundaries, and that the opinion of local governments be solicited and given foremost consideration when determinations relating to natural gas permit applications are made; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED. That copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to Governor David A. Paterson, Thomas W. Libous, State Senator, and DEC Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis.

This resolution was seconded by Mrs. Wakefield and carried.

Mr. Flanagan made the motion to pass the 2008 budget as the tentative budget for 2009. Seconded by Mr. Mason and carried.

Mr. Flanagan stated that the Oxford School Tax was up 4.9% but up 8.6% in Preston because of equalization rate. Mr. Flanagan also stated that the County is working on an Assessment Grant.

Norwich Youth Program is requesting an \$28.00 increase.

Mr. Mason offered the following resolution:

That the grievance day for the Town of Preston be held on the 4th Wednesday in the month of May. Seconded by Mrs. Wakefield and carried.