

ULSTER TOWN BOARD SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2006 AT 7:00 PM

The special meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Supervisor Woerner at 7:00 PM at the East Kingston Fire House on Main Street, East Kingston.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

ROLL CALL BY CLERK

TOWN COUNCILMAN CRAIG ARTIST
TOWN COUNCILMAN DAVID BRINK
TOWN COUNCILMAN JOEL B. BRINK
TOWN COUNCILMAN ROCCO SECRETO
SUPERVISOR NICKY B. WOERNER

Supervisor Woerner reported that the purpose of this meeting is to update the residents about the grant possibilities for East Kingston and to register complaints about the Callanan blasting. The recent lateral assistance grant application for OSC for low to moderate income residents has been denied. Mark Blauer, the town grant writer, will address other opportunities later in the meeting. He announced that the tentative budget has a lower East Kingston Special District property tax. This was done by using the interest from the bond that the town had to repay to offset the tax rate. The 2007 tax rate will be \$6.06 per thousand. The tax rate is anticipated to raise and level off at around the \$8 figure, that was predicted, as the years progress. The average homeowner, for this budget, will pay \$310.00 or \$606 for a \$100,000 home.

Paul Vogt, Water Superintendent, reported that all the mains and services for the East Kingston Water District, are installed. He can't perform any pressure test until the city water is turned on. That is being delayed as City of Kingston needs to install a pump house that is on back order. He will not issue a water permit (permission to connect to the district) until the water pipes are tested and approved.

Mark Blauer, the town grant writer, reported that the town plans to reapply for the grant to allow free lateral water connections for low to moderate income qualified families in the East Kingston Water District similar to the Glenerie lateral grant. He is disappointed that the town was turned down as this was a well written grant with more statistical information. The Town is looking for any help it can find for people to connect. He has contacted the USDA and they have a program for qualifying senior citizens. They will send people down to help fill out the application for them. They also have 1% interest loans for people other than senior citizens to connect. Anyone who can not wait until next August for water may want to take advantage of this program. He is checking to see if the unspent Glenerie Water lateral connection money can be used for East Kingston.

Robert White – What is the time frame for the water district to be complete and have water? When will the residents be allowed to connect (lateral connections)?
Superintendent Vogt stated he had no definitive date but he believes it should be finished early next year. No one will be allowed to connect until the pipes are tested.

Mr. Perry - Is there a \$150.00 permit to connect?

Superintendent Vogt – Yes. That includes a water meter connection with two inspections.

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Mr. Patrick Clausi – Asked if the district had to pay for a water tank.

Superintendent Vogt – The water tank is included in the price for the district and would be installed afterward. The tank does not need to be in service to get the water running.

Supervisor Woerner stated that there have been talks about a water tank to service both communities (East Kingston and the City of Kingston), but that is not up for discussion at this point. The tank was included in the original bond.

Mrs. Josephine Reina – Where is the pump house? When was it ordered? Where is the pump house coming from?

Supervisor Woerner – The pump house is on back order by the City of Kingston. He didn't know where the city ordered it from or the type, but would get that information. It will be located within the Town of Ulster. To the best of his knowledge, it was ordered in July.

Paul Vogt stated that information can be obtained from the Town Engineer.

Robert White – Who is talking to the city to task to get this project done? He feels the City should be fined for not getting their part done.

Supervisor Woerner explained that the pump house is on back order and there is nothing that can be done about it.

To Set Public Hearing for the East Kingston Fire Protection Budget

Supervisor Woerner motioned to set a public hearing for the East Kingston Fire Protection District for October 24, 2006 at 7:00 PM at the East Kingston Fire House.

2nd by Councilman Joel B. Brink

All Ayes

Supervisor Woerner announced that, after the Public Hearing that was just set, there would be updates about the water and blasting information from this meeting.

An audience member requested a City of Kingston Water Representative attend the meeting. The Supervisor will check.

Supervisor Woerner opened a hearing to hear concerns and complaints about the Callanan's blasting off of Route 32. He asked people to be specific about the nature of their complaint. He would like to gather information and then hold a better meeting with Callanan where the complaints and concerns could be addressed.

Lou LaConture – Water got worse. It is black. The basement has water in it. The sheet rock in the house has the nails showing. The exact time the water turned bad he was unsure of but could check with his water system records.

Mrs. Josephine Reina – Reported that cracks in the foundation are showing through her cement blocks. She has pictures and a report. It is getting worse. She has clay around her house and the blasting causes more damage.

Mr. Sam Perry – Pool sunk four inches. Cracks in his tiles. Concern about breathing the dust. He is losing land. He has stones hitting his driveway. They are working 7 days a week. Mr.

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Petersen, the building inspector, came to take pictures and could barely see from the stone dust. The company took pictures of his foundation before the blasting, but he can't get copies to show the damage that has occurred.

Mrs. Perry – She can't keep her house clean because of the dust from the blasting. She was concerned about what they are breathing. They aren't using water to keep the dust down. The trucks drop stone as they drive in and out of the plant. She is concerned about Rt. 32 being closed down as it is the only entrance to her home. Every time they blast, her family feels it. They put a machine in the grass and the reading is read properly. There are several caves or air shafts that run under her property and she is concerned about what could happen to her house with the blasting. She complained that the company is drilling at night. Further, her property has a dropped of 300 ft from Callana's blasting and they should put fencing for public safety.

Jean Watzka – Ran out of water. Feel the blasts and is concerned that they will affect the water veins in the area.

Mr. Perry inquired if this blasting will affect the water line and the laterals.

Mr. Perry wanted to know who regulates the blasts.

Mr. Petersen stated that they regulate themselves. Their blast permits set the duration.

Mrs. Perry stated that the machine should be near her home.

A gentleman from the audience stated that when he worked in the quarries they were prohibited from blasting sections that they are now blasting in. There were meetings about what the company could do and what they couldn't.

Mrs. Perry stated that she had the understanding that the company had to take a certain amount of rock out (blasting) to keep their license going and nothing was done.

Mr. Perry - Are they still allowed to have their license?

Mr. Bob McCollough – The blasting is damaging the houses and it is affecting the people's health. The DEC will stop them from blasting to save a turtle or snake but they won't do anything to save a human being. No one goes inside the houses to record the blasting and experience the blasting.

Jodie – Same concern, feels the blasting inside her house

Laura Watzka – Feels the blasts. She suffers from posttraumatic stress syndrome and it affects her. Her son has nightmares about the hill coming down. There are trees that are coming down the hill. She is worried about the trees' stability along the ridge. Her house is 140 years old and the blasting affects it as it is built to an older standard.

Lady from audience – A road is being placed near Lake Road. Are they planning on doing any work there? There is no fence near the ridge.

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Anthony Deflippo - Didn't know the blasting was occurring because he is gone during the day, but his new garage foundation is showing cracks and there is a big crack in his bay window. He believes that this was caused by the blasting.

Patrick Clausi –They can feel the blasting all the way down to Newkirk Street. He was mowing his lawn on a riding lawn mower and nearly fell off. They were supposed to be just a blacktopping operation and then they are blasting. Who gave them permission? He feels they are blasting lower than East Kingston and going to ruin their water. Who gave them the permit to do all this?

Richard Carpino – Is there a plan for reclamation of the land? Are they blasting in the wet lands? There is a Peter Ropy Lake, also known as Huders Lake. When they blast, that water is coming out and contaminating his drinking water. There has been a reduction in water from his well.

Jeannine McCollough - She spoke to Kevin Cahill and she will present a petition signed by the people affected by the blasts. He promised he will start a meeting to address the issue. She feels that the blasting affected the quality of life and health of the community. The blasting creates noise, debris and could cause accidents. She feels that the company needs to be present in the home to experience the blasts. She watched cracks form from the blasting. Her neighbor nearly fell off a ladder due to the blasting. Things fall off the shelves. The agreement that Callanan's has needs to be altered to help the community. Inspections need to be done to enforce this agreement. The blasts are not fair.

Tina Carpino – She experienced trespassing from people walking onto her property. She contacted the DEC and they lack the resources to regulate the permits (no machine and no one trained to use them). She watched her metal blinds nearly hit the ceiling from the blasts.

Julie Murphy – Her water is affected. There is a lot of noise.

Lady from audience – Spent money on a new well pump and her water is black.

Gentleman from audience – His house has shifted on its foundation.

Robert White - Feels the blasting on Newkirk Street. How long does it take to get this problem fixed? Will this lower the assessed value on properties?

Jeannine McCollough – This needs to go one step further than complaining: by talking to the political line.

Robert White - Will this lower the assessed value on properties?

A woman named Jean – Who gets a phone call when they blast?

Mrs. Perry – What are they (the state) doing to the road work on Route 32?
Supervisor Woerner will find out.

Mr. John Iaconetti – They are supposed to install storm water drainage.

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Mrs. Perry – What are we supposed to do with the road blocked to our house on Route 32? Supervisor Woerner suggested calling his office and he will have an answer as to what they are doing and for how long.

Mr. Perry stated that when he bought his house, he was told that they could never blast behind his house and they could never shoot in that quarry.

Mrs. Josephine Reina – They are not doing a good job with the seismograph. She has cracks in her cement blocks.

Frank Rittie – He believes the State Police Department enforces the blast law. Supervisor Woerner stated he would talk to Captain Regains from the State Police Department.

Mrs. Watzka – Asked the town to enforce the 2-ton limit on Main Street. She felt her property value is being diminished.

Robert White – Reported that there is a diesel smell in the area from them starting their trucks up.

Mrs. Perry reported that there is a blacktop smell at night. The trucks are running all the time and the sound of the tailgates slamming as they load and unload materials.

Mrs. Josephine Reina – Concerned that the blasting will affect the dump and could set off the methane gas at the old landfill.

Robert White – Concerned about the blast affecting the high pressure gas line running through the area.

A raise of hands showed that the majority of people were having water problems in East Kingston.

Supervisor Woerner stated that he would like to submit a copy of the minutes to the Town Attorney and to Callanan's to address the issues. He would like to try to have answers at the October 24, 2006 meeting. He feels that Callanan wants to correct the problem and is getting their experts together. He was concerned about the water quality in the area and would like to test the water, as there were a lot of people affected by this.

Mrs. Perry – Inquired about the health risks of breathing in the stone dust. She would like the town to invite a representative from the Department of Health to address this. She requested a "Stop" sign be placed at the end of the Callanan property and road. Supervisor Woerner stated he would refer that matter to the police to look into as he thought it was an enforcement issue.

Mrs. Watzka – Requested that tarps be placed on the trucks, as the material falls off.

Mr. Perry – There is an air quality problem.

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Supervisor Woerner stated that it is not an issue the town has jurisdiction over but he could refer it to the EPA.

Mrs. Josephine Reina was wondering how this is affecting the residents' septic systems.

Mrs. Louise Gardecki – Reported that she had more sulfur in her water. Her pump house has been running more and more. She had to put a shield on her chimney to prevent water from coming inside. She further reported that her house has shifted on the foundation and more water is getting in her cellar.

Supervisor Woerner motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM
2nd by Councilman Secreto
All Ayes