

TOWN OF HIGHLAND

Town Supervisor
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Dear Town of Highland Residents:

Everyday operations in the Town of Highland have been proceeding well at the present time. We have been able to make many improvements including the upgrading of our Highway fleet, improvements at the Town Hall including the creation of the new Heroes' Park and 911 Memorial. Currently we are working on improvements at the Justice Court and Senior Citizen Center and the financial health of the Town is strong. We are looking forward to a third consecutive year without any significant tax increase.

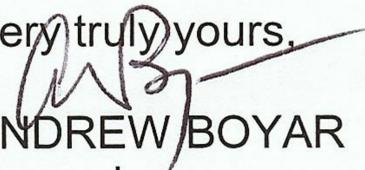
I wish I could say that everything in the Town is running smoothly and without controversy, but in the last month or so this is not the case. The Town is now considering the enactment of a Local Law which would ban heavy industrial uses associated with Natural Gas Extraction, in a word "fracking". Over the past five years, the Town has received considerable expressions of concern about the process and about the industrialization of the Town of Highland. In response, the Town has conducted forums, informational sessions and has received a great deal of feedback with the efforts to enact a ban in the form of Local Law No. 3-2012.

Recently however have we received expressions of concern from some of our citizens, mainly large landholders in particular, who argue against the suppression of the economic benefits associated with Natural Gas extraction. They argue among other things that the technology is evolving and the New York State DEC and the Federal EPA are taking steps to protect the environment.

This is a pivotal decision for the future of the Town. There are strong feelings and arguments on both sides. The Town Board is charged with the responsibility of hearing all opinions and making the best decision for the Town. This is why I am asking you now to plan to attend the public hearing on Local Law #3 which will be held on Friday evening, May 4 at the Eldred Central School. An informational session will be held at 6:30 P.M. which will include an explanation of the Local Law after which the Town Board will receive comments both for and against. A copy of this Local Law is now posted on the website. Due of the anticipated large number of comments, we will be asking people to limit their comments to two minutes so that everyone will have the opportunity to express their view. If you have more to say you can submit your comments in writing at the Public Hearing or before.

Please give this very serious matter the consideration and thought it deserves.

Very truly yours,


ANDREW BOYAR
Supervisor