

**ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND & RECREATION MEETING
MINOCQUA COMMUNITY CENTER
MAY 8, 2012**

Members present: Gary Baier, Chair
Jack Sorensen, Vice Chair
Tom Rudolph, Jerry Shidell, Jack Martinson
Dave Schatzley, Town of Lynne

County staff present: Karl Jennrich, Planning & Zoning Director
John Bilogan, Forestry Director
Brian Desmond, Corporation Counsel

Tribal Council: Tom Maulson
Jerome Big John, Eric Chapman, Sr., Dee Mayo
Joe Wildcat, Butch St. Germain, Alice Soulier
Raquel Bell, Terry Allen

Others present: Terry Allan, Marcus Neismann, Duane Chapman, Tina VanZile, Bob Mott, Bob Martini, Alan VanRaalte, Sharon VanRaalte, Bob Metropulos, Lenore Neumann, Karl Fate, Charlie S., Todd, Lisa Theo, Natalene Cummings, Mike Timmons, Jeff Braun, Nate Ouimette, Jeff, Sherry Teschendorf, Kriste Strasburg, Lloyd Strasburg, Virginia Mertens, John Mertens, Larry Wawronowicz, Michael Ouimette, Bryan Hoover

**** NOTES TIMES WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT TO HEAR WHAT IS BEING SAID**

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair, Jack Sorensen, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in accordance with Wisconsin Open Meeting Law. He announced that Chairman Baier was running late and would be here shortly.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION

Motion by Tom Rudolph second by Jack Martinson to approve the agenda with the agenda order of agenda items at the Chair's discretion. All aye on voice vote, the motion carried.

DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE LAC DU FLAMBEAU TRIBAL COUNCIL AND THE ONEIDA COUNTY FORESTRY, LAND AND RECREATION COMMITTEE PERTAINING TO METALLIC METAL EXPLORATION AND MINING IN ONEIDA COUNTY

Introductions were made of both County Staff and Tribal Council.
Chairman Baier welcomed everyone.

Oneida County Board Vice-Chair, Dave Hintz, outlined history of mining in Oneida County.

Mr. Hintz stated that Oneida County Board of Supervisors shares many mutual interests with the Tribal Council, including the protection of our environment and promoting the economy.

Back in the late 1980's the County Board awarded leases to mining companies (1989). In 1990 a discovery was made in the Town of Lynne. The reserve was officially announced in June 1990. Noranda was the mining company at that time. It is essentially a lead/zinc/copper reserve.

There is some concern that the reserve is located close to a lake bed, which is true. Mr. Hintz provided a map of the reserve and the related lake beds. He also provided some charts presented by Dr. Tom Evans from the Wisconsin State Geological Reserve.

Mr. Hintz gave a brief summary of what the Oneida County Board has done so far. In 1987, when mining companies started getting interested in exploring the reserves in Oneida County, the County Board passed a resolution that states *that ample guidelines have been formulated and sufficient laws have been passed to ensure safe and sensible extraction of metallic minerals*. Before that there was a prohibition on mining activity in Oneida County. In 1989, Oneida County awarded three exploration-like mining contracts. In 1990 there was the discovery of the Lynne reserve. Those contracts expired in 1997 because there was no development of the reserve. In 2009, Tamerlane, a new mining company, expressed interest in the Lynne reserve. At that time the Mining Oversight and Local Impact Committee took action. There have been monthly meeting since 2009.

The Mining Oversight Local Impact Committee(MOLIC) has, over the years, requested a reconstitution. There is a State Board in Madison (Investment and Local Impact Fund Board) that has some money that can help Counties help evaluate whether mining is for them or not. Oneida County tried to get that Board reconstituted to get some funding to help with the evaluation of the mining proposal.

The Committee visited the Ladysmith property. In 2010 they held an informational session in Lynne. It was well attended, about 240 people. Tamerlane gave their presentation on how the proposed to explore the property. There were a couple experts from the State talking about mining regulations.

After that the Committee started thinking there may be other companies that may be interested in the property. Two other companies, Josephine and Aquila Resources, did express interest in the Lynne area. After the County Board recognized that there was adequate interest in the Lynne Reserve, the County updated its mining agreement. The mining / exploration agreements were originally drafted in 1980. The Committee thought it was best to go forward to mining companies for proposals to get a better understanding of how they would explore and potentially mine the Lynne Reserve. The County Board wanted the Committee to have more public input before the proposals were sought. There will be two more public meetings scheduled for June 23. One will be held in the Town of Lynne and one will be in the City of Rhinelander.

In April the County reorganized the Committees of the County Board. The Mining Committee is now combined with the Forestry Committee. Gary Baier is the Chairman of the Committee.

Larry Wawronowicz, Natural Resources Director, introduced himself and his Mining Workgroup.

Tom Maulson, President of the Lac du Flambeau Tribe, talked about the importance of talking about the mining issues. He stated they have historical ties to the Lynne area. They have medicine lodges and burial sites in that area. He feels the Tribe should have been consulted much earlier. He told the Committee they need to “dig” into what is happening with the Ladysmith Mine. The mine is seeping and contaminating the rivers and waters along with the fish in the waters. He doesn't feel mining protects the natural resources. He is concerned about how the mines will affect future generations. He stated maybe there are things that can be done rather than tearing up the earth. Our natural resources need to be protected.

Mr. Big John feels there is a lot of homework that needs to be done before any agreements can be made. He feels the environment has to outweigh any jobs that would be created with the mining project. He mentioned that that the Tribe is the largest employer in Vilas County. He is also concerned about the future of our children and grandchildren. He wants the County and the Tribe to work together for their kids and the future.

****Eric Chapman, Sr.** asked at what point the County and Tribe will sit down with the Tribes scientific people to see if the baseline data matches. He hopes that everyone will be able to open up dialog work together.

Dee Mayo stated she has more questions than comments. She asked if the Committee, when they made the decision to go ahead with the big package, did they consider how everything would be effected? Does the County have enough facts to go ahead with the mining projects? She said she believes a lot of their Staff have a lot more questions but they aren't sure which direction the County is headed. She questions regulations and compliance that need to be followed along with permitting processes.

Chairman Baier stated that he wished there were a manual to follow to get this done the way it should be done. He feels the Committee has the same concerns the Tribal Council has. Baier stated that the Committee started as the Mining Oversight Committee and is now partnered with the Forestry Department and the subject land is in Forest Land Management program, which will trigger more issues. Baier stated that what he's hearing so far is that everyone is involved and all the steps needed be looked at to be able to get to the point that the pollution level is recognized.

Joseph Wildcat stated he is concerned about the impact mining projects will have on tourism and the contamination to the environment.

Alice Soulier stated her concerns about how mining will affect food, water, medicine, animals, etc. She stated she hopes everyone can agree on how things should be done. She stated that she had read some of the past minutes and at one time there was a question about Tamerlane and whether they were on the “up and up” or not. She has not gotten to the point in the minutes where or if that question was answered. She also read

about the Ladysmith Mine site and there was a question about the dump site which raised a question in her mind if all of the testing that has been done and if all the levels are safe?

**

Jerry Allen stated that he is new to the Council and new to making decisions that are going to affect a lot of people's lives and a lot of young people in his Community. He said he doesn't want to take away from the future just to have something today.

Larry introduced Nora Wildcat, whose husband was the former Chairman of the Tribe for 15 years.

Larry Wawronowicz stated that he and his staff and some of the Council members have had some conversations in the last few weeks in terms of the Lynne Mine. Some of the things that came up are how are they going to develop, economically, in the State of Wisconsin and at the same time do that in an environmentally safe way? Those are the kinds of things that need to be considered. He stated that we all depend on clean air for everything that we do.

Mr. Wawronowicz stated that he and the Tribal Chairman were in the Tomah area and saw what lead mining did to that part of the Country. He stated one of the communities had to be relocated because lead concentrations in the soil were so high that the people could not live there anymore. He wants everyone to take into consideration of the seriousness of the issue. Clean air, water and land are so important to everyone. There has to be honest discussion and continue discussion as the project moves forward. Communication is the key to this project. Mr. Wawronowicz provided a handout that deals with the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Council. The Tribal Council has land in the County as well as hunting, fishing and gathering rights. Mr. Wawronowicz stated that there are going to be some technical questions that will come up. They have a Mining Workgroup within their Tribal Natural Resources Department for any questions.

Mr. Wawronowicz wants the County to see what relationship the Lynne Mine has with the Lac du Flambeau Indian Reservation. The two are about 13 miles apart. He also wanted to point out where McCord Village is in terms of the location of the Mine. Those are historically significant sites cede territories and it is very important that those things are taken into consideration. There are a lot of Federal Laws that apply.

The other handouts deal with the potential effects of sulfide mining and the sulfide mining process on Indian Tribes.

Mr. Martinson stated that for the two parties to work together maybe Corporation Counsel could give an idea of how to get to that point – for someone from the Tribe to have voting rights along with the County Committee.

Mr. Desmond, Corporation Counsel, responded that the project is in the stage now that it will be shaped the way the Committee want it to be shaped. There are no permits at this stage from anyone. There are no legal requirements at this time.

Mr. Maulson stated there are other Tribes out there that can be involved in this as well. If the resources that were reserved for hunting, fishing and gathering are devastated who is responsible? That is the worse scenario of this whole proposed project.

Mr. Rudolph stated that he respects all the statements and comments made today and said he personally feels there will be no mining unless it can be done in an environmentally safe manner. The Oneida County Board has charged this Committee with determining this. There has been a lot of work done already and there is a lot more work to do. He stated he doesn't feel they are anywhere near saying yes or no to the project at this time. He stated that until there is actually somebody interested in doing further exploration they are not at the point to invest too much time and effort into the project. He feels it is a step by step process and there is a long way to go. Mr. Rudolph stated that there is a lot of new technology out there.

****Mr. Wawronowicz** asked if any baseline studies have been done, in terms of fish, wildlife, air and water. And in the terms of tribal historic properties or burial grounds, has the State Historical Preservation Office come in to determine if there are any burial sites associated with this in mind? Some of the other things are what are the socio impacts of this particular activity? How will they determine if there are any negative impacts? You are not only looking at environmental impacts but also health impacts. What will happen to the local residents?

****Mr. Baier** stated that one of the steps through the process they will have to deal with is the ****process**, as well as the environmental process, the human process and the effect it has. All these studies have to be done before we can say we're even going to be doing exploration.

Mr. Maulson asked who would fund all these studies. It will cost millions of dollars to do those studies.

Mr. Baier stated that those studies are going to be required.

Mr. Schatzley, Chairman for the Town of Lynne. He stated the Town wrote a letter to the Committee and the County Board stating they are against the mine for five major reasons, the first being environmental protection. In the letter they stated that the Committee has moved forward with *how* to do the mine and never looked at *should* we do the mine. He feels the Committee has educated themselves very little as to what could or will happen. He has been trying to educate himself and found some very dramatic facts that disturb him. He stated that in his research he has found that the Lynne site is a total sulfide mine, which is dramatically worse for the potential for pollution. He feels the Committee/Tribe needs to have experts explain what is going to happen or what could happen. When sulfide soil is exposed to oxygen and water it creates sulfuric acid. The other natural byproduct of this kind of mining is arsenic. The Ladysmith mine is a copper mine which was totally reclaimed, at his guesstimation, 20 years ago, is now leaking toxic levels of copper. The proposed Lynne mine is a lead and zinc mine. In wet soils they don't dissipate. Will that leach lead and zinc into the Willow River? Mr. Schatzley feels the mine is a bad risk.

As a Committee member Mr. Schatzley made a motion to make a member of the Tribal Council and member of the Land, Forestry and Recreation Committee, second by Jack Martinson. This is a decision that has to be forwarded to the County Board in Ordinance Amendment format. No action taken. Chairman Baier will put this on a future agenda.

Mr. Maulson commented that there is a lot of expertise in the room. He feels they need to take a step back to see exactly what's out there. He represents different Tribes nationally. He has seen mines contaminate communities. They have to look at the impact it will have on generations to come. That's why the Tribes stay strong on water and environmental issues.

Mr. Sorensen read: *To provide leadership for the betterment of the Tribal Membership and descendants in the areas of Health, Education, Welfare, Economic Job Development and the Protection of the Natural Resources.*

Mr. Sorensen stated that in 1997, when he was a County Board Member, he drafted a Resolution to recognize the Willow Flowage as outstanding resource water. The Resolution passed unanimously. Mr. Sorensen stated that he is pro-mining if it is environmentally ok. He feels the only way Oneida County will find out if it's ok is if the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) gets involved to answer the environmental questions.

**Cannot hear who is talking here or what is being said.

The Water Quality Specialist for the Lac du Flambeau Tribe commented that the Wisconsin DNR does not have the time or the Staff to review this project to protect the County. The State has already spent an immense amount of money to protect that area because it is an outstanding water source and one of the best fishing resources. Those mines are draining into this outstanding water source. It would be her recommendation, if the County moves forward, an outside third party be brought in to review the environmental things other than the mine, to tell you what can really happen with the situation.

UPDATE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 23, 2012.

Mr. Bilogan, Forestry Director, reported that Tom Evans, a panel member for the public informational meetings, would not be able to attend the meeting on June 23, 2012.

Discussion was held on who was available on which dates.

**Someone asked who was on the panels if and if the Tribes were invited to the meeting. Mr. Baier told them one member is from the Wisconsin Geological Service, Ann Coakley from the DNR and two geologists from the Mining Company and two from "Anti-mining".

**Cannot hear what is being said here.

Mr. Hoover stated that when the format for the panel was proposed it was suggested that it be two geologists, two regulatory and two non-mining people. This is not a debate; this is presentation from each standpoint.

It has been determined that the meeting will be held on June 23, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town of Lynne. That meeting will end at 12:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m. there will be another meeting at the James William Middle School in Rhinelander until 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Shidell informed everyone that the meeting on June 23, 2012 will involve exploration only. He asked that anyone presenting limit their presentations to exploring.

Mr. Maulson suggested there not be a meeting on the 23rd. He feels there is more communication that needs to be done between the Tribe and County and get a better handle on what's going to be done. He doesn't feel anything should be rushed. It is important to look to the future for our future generations.

Bob Metropulous stated he does have the format which states that they are to only talk about exploration.

Someone from the audience asked if they are only putting out bids for exploration?

Mr. Shidell stated that the Committee was charged by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors to explore the issue of public informational meetings aboutt exploration.

Mr. Metropulous stated that he made the motion at the Oneida County Board of Supervisors meeting, which was to talk about mining. Not exploration, not extraction.

Mr. Hoover asked what the title of the documents the Committee is working with? Mr. Rudolph had the documents with him and the title is: *Oneida County Metallic Mineral Exploration Agreement with Options to Prospect and Mine*. Mr. Desmond stated that the large documents are for exploration and possibly down the road prospecting and mining. The other agreements that go along with the bid packet that has to be exercised by a mining company. Should the County decide to go with those options, there are other permits that are needed for either prospecting or mining. Oneida County has a separate Conditional Use Permit process that is also required. That has to be forwarded to the full County Board of Supervisors for approval. There are permits through the Department of Natural Resources and through the Federal Government.

****Bob Martini**, County Board Supervisor...

Mr. Maulson thinks the process should be slowed down in order to do it right, until everyone reaches a consensus.

****Bob Mott**, County Board Member...

**Cannot hear who is speaking or what is being said.

Mr. Desmond wanted to make people aware that the process for Conditional Use Permits is available in the Oneida County Zoning & Shoreland Protection Ordinance.

Someone asked if the Bid Packages could be released to the Public. Mr. Desmond stated that they have not been approved by the Oneida County Board of Supervisors. They are still up for changes by the County Board.

Discussion was held on the differences between Public Hearings and Informational Meetings.

Mr. Desmond explained that they want to maintain order in the meetings due to the controversial subject matter.

Mr. Maulson stated that everyone needs to be heard and let the people finish when they talk. This is what needs to be done to really gather all the information.

****Mr. Shidell**

Mr. Hintz stated that he thought there were a lot of good ideas mentioned tonight. The purpose of the meeting tonight was to allow everyone to talk and give their opinions and also to listen to what everyone had to say. He has about fourteen good ideas from this evening's meeting. He said there is a lot of work to do and that includes listening to people and experts and understanding what those people say. Showing respect for other people's opinions is the only way to work together and be good neighbors. Good neighbors don't always agree with each other but they do talk and listen.

** Mr. Maulson believes the cart is way before the horse on this issue. He hopes the Committee understands what they're saying. He feels there will be trouble if this issue is moved too fast. He just asks that the Committee go slowly. He wants to thank the Committee on behalf of the Tribe. He feels they have a cooperative crowd. He thinks if it's done right there won't be people screaming and hollering.

A member of the audience stated that the Tribe has been down this road before. The Council does not sit on any Board or Committee. That way they know they have a true non-biased look at how everything is going on.

Mr. Baier stated that the Committee has been criticized for not moving along faster. He also agreed with Mr. Maulson that there needs to be more talk. Mr. Baier represents the Town of Nokomis, which is a reservoir. As the water flows from the Willow and the Tomahawk River is goes into Lake Nokomis, which 66% of the land in the Town of Nokomis is waterfront? If that is destroyed they will lose their community. Everyone will suffer. The impacts will be very expensive and can't be replaced if destroyed. At the same time they have to look at attributes and the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

****Norm Poulton(?):** It was mentioned earlier **

Duane Chapman: Stated he was reading an article which talked about the Town of Lynne showing over 75% of the Town opposed to the mining project. He's taking that as the interest of the people speaking on behalf of what they desire. What consideration or what weight does that survey, if the survey truly existed, has that been thought about. Was the survey conducted? (Hard to hear him)

****Lenore Neumann, Town of Lynne:** The Deposit has been identified. The mining companies are the ones that need to do the explaining in order to satisfy everyone. The public needs to know that the Committee and Oneida County Board don't need a further definition of Deposit. You're asking the wrong questions, you're spinning your wheels...to find out the constituents want

Alan VanRaalte, Town of Little Rice: People keep pointing to the Flambeau Mine that operated near Ladysmith as an example of what kind of impact mining can have in Oneida County. Has anybody really taken a look at the Flambeau Mine at Ladysmith in Rusk County? Construction began at that site in 1991. Shipment from the site occurred in 1993. The last shipment was in 1997. Reclamation ended in 1999. According to the US Census Bureau the population in Ladysmith in 1990 was 3,938 in 2010 the population was 3,414. A decline from 1990 of 13%. The population of Rusk County in 1990 13,079 and in 2010 it was 14,705. The decline is just over 2%. Also for Rusk County the poverty rate was 16.6% in 1990 and in 2010 it was 16.4%. By comparison the population in Oneida County grew from 31,180 in 1990 to 35,998 in 2010. An increase of over 15%. In 1990 the poverty rate in Oneida County was 12.3% by 2010 it had dropped to 9.9%. While Rusk County's population fell from 1990 to 2010 its poverty rate remained virtually steady. Oneida County's population grew and its poverty rate fell. This without the so called benefit of mining activity that Rusk County experienced throughout the 1990's. **

****Kathleen Kelly:**

Barbara Logan: I found out about this meeting on Channel 12 and they announced that the Tribal Council was going to be here and I heard Lynne, I had never heard of that Township. I feel the citizens need to have this meeting on June 23 open for discussion on the whole issue of mining. Otherwise it looks like you're trying to **People need to have a chance to hear the issues on this topic. Also, I'm wondering why a man ** experience isn't on your Committee.

Jeff Brown, Tripoli: I just want to get back to one of your points you had before about the number of people you're getting on the 23rd. DNR people, soils people, Geologists, one group of people I don't think you mentioned that are hugely important and we could have them here are financial people. You have never spoken the question of if you render some money out of this activity how much does Oneida County hope to get? What economic impact of those jobs gained, of course minus those lost, might net? Have you talked about what the State of Wisconsin wants for their piece of the pie? A year or so ago it was said that a certain level of that soil belongs to the State of Wisconsin and I don't think they've

forgotten about it. ** We don't know what you're hoping to get out of it. How can you be at this point, where you want to start selecting exploration companies when you haven't gotten a document that you have**that says this is truly what we want to get. Best case scenario, worst case scenario and I'm sorry it has to be a little iffy, it can't be exact. There's somebody in this room that can give you some exacts if you want to hear it. This young lady works with the tribe. I attended a meeting in November or December where she **can tell us what happens when you mine sulfide. What happens when air and water get in contact with that? They're talking about a five million ton deposit of zinc, which means there's a heck of a lot more than that that are not zinc. There's a little bit of stuff that's good and a little bit of stuff that's bad. You guys have at your disposal, right now, results of Noranda's tests that they did in 1990 to discover exactly how many percent of those terrible elements that there are. Such as arsenic and those things you don't want in your house. You could have somebody do some work on that right now if you wanted to. Someone with her credentials and background ** if you choose. Educate yourself about those risks and I'll tell you what; all these people in this room would really go away and let you mine if we are certain those risks wouldn't affect us. It's all that really, if you could make that question go away I think we could even live with some aesthetic disruption. But no one has gone out of their way to hire a geologist or anybody that we've been able to talk to so far from the County. Representatives to say 'here's what we're concerned about, answered. Put our questions at rest and I think the reason we've avoided asking the question is we absolutely know the answers to those toxic questions.

Karl Fate: I've been going to a lot of these meetings so I know first hand**...Even at a lot of these meetings Mr. Hintz strictly prohibited questions from being asked. He finally called for hearings and now you want us towrite questions on little white cards. That is ever since the hearings were called, this Committee has been whittling away at the natural rights of the taxpayers in this County. You need to stop that. A couple meetings ago, you put out an agenda **. I noted that there was a very glaring omission on there. You had no provision on there for describing the environment. This is an omission that has been going on for 22 years. Unless you stop and evaluate the environment that is at the Lynne site you are making a horrible mistake. You're doing a disservice to the taxpayers of this County.

Mike Ouimette, Town of Little Rice: Is it possible for you and the committee right now to make a motion to include mining extraction, instead of just exploration, for the meeting to broaden? To see where public comes in so we can all have our say. So we can let you, as Committee members, where the public stands. I think if the public was truly informed, at which case they have been in the past, Noranda looked at this mining site before, and it was my belief it was because of public opinion and cost that they backed out. The resource isn't gone. The resource, that you're looking at, is a very small resource. The resource for all of us, the one thing we have in common, and the most important one is fresh water. It's the only reason that any of us are up here. I travel around the world and I see people starving all over. I know our number one resource is water and the pristine, clean water that we have up here is dear to all of us. Let's not sell it out.

**

****Nate Ouimette:** Couldn't hear most of what was said. Be truthful about what it is, when it is mining, not just exploration. My hopes are, when you bring this to the agenda, not only let ...be part of that but because they do have interest in this. I would encourage that you look at also ** Who voted not have Mr. Martini on this? That person should be held responsible. Nobody knows?

Mr. Baier: If I could answer that. It's because the County Board Chair has to select the Committees and to try to cut things down, we have combined Committees together. That's why this Committee is Forestry and the Mining Oversight Committee all in one.

****Virginia Mertens:**

Tom: Running for 34th Assembly. Here today as a Dad and citizen of Oneida County and as a Brother and Sister to everybody that's in this room. I don't see one kind of person or another, I just see people. We all breathe the same air we all drink the same water. I'm hearing a lot of talk about safe mining which reminds me of the commercials about clean colons. I don't think there is such a thing. I think everything comes at an environmental cost. When these people speak of clean air and clean water they speak to me. When these people speak of economic impact, they speak to me. Our real issues include to balance all of them to the best of our abilities and to what is going to benefit all of us. I use electricity, I drove a car tonight. I think a lot of us are willing to say we understand that it comes at an environmental risk. I don't think the question is whether or not mining is safe because it's not. Neither is the electricity that we use or the mowers we cut our lawns with. I think the question is HOW safe? How much of a trade off are we willing to accept for what we're going to get out of it? I think that's the real issue and it appears to me that a lot of us are afraid that the trade off isn't there. What are we going to get out of it? I think the necessary questions are; do we need the mine. I don't know. It just appears to be that's one of the questions we should be asking ourselves and another one is do we want the mine. As elected representatives I know that each of you up there has a duty to the people of Oneida County, myself being one of them, to represent us and true representation can't be done unless you know what it is that we want. I think that I have not had any input. I have not been contacted. I have not been asked, I have not had a survey and we're spending a lot of time, a lot of resources a lot fueled feelings and it might all come down to the people of Oneida County don't want the mine. It seems to me there's been some mention of putting the cart before the horse and that could be what's happening here. We're spending all this time and energy talking about the mine when it might not be what the people of Oneida County want. I'm sure there are some avenues that we can take to find out if it is, indeed, what we want. I do also have to say that the gentleman from the Town of Lynne, this affects all of us in Wisconsin and the United States. Do we think it's fair that the people in Milwaukee and Madison have an equal say in whether the mine goes in the Town of Lynne. I don't think any of us agree on that. I think if it was in your backyard, my backyard I might have a little more right to say whether or not this mine should go in. If it's something that we need, we have tools to deal with that. I don't see the need here. I don't think these people should have more consideration if not more of a voice on whether or not that mine should go in there. If not, maybe you can go in the next ** I'm just encouraging the Committee to consider whether or not if it was in your backyard if you would think you'd have more of a say whether or not you really

wanted that if you thought the trade off was there or not. As people of Oneida County, of the State of Wisconsin **...I think at some point you go, hey I know you have a real strong stance of the mine**...So I'm asking that we consider finding out if the people of Oneida County are willing to go ahead and embark on any of this cost and you all here tonight are being paid a per diem, do we want to spend that money? We might not even want to go there. So, I don't understand why we're having ** And I'd also like to add one more comment, I lived in Alaska for years and we had oil exploration. People of Alaska accepted oil exploration in the State of Alaska. It was destructive, disruptive, there was a lot of environmental impact but they all got revenue because it was their natural resource being taken. For them the trade off was there. Every resident of Alaska gets a check every year for a certain amount of money which in lieu of paying State tax. They actually get money back because they're selling resources of the State of Alaska. So the trade off is there for them and they're willing to accept that. It seems to me like we've had mining here before and we've talked about environmental concerns, which you gentlemen brought up and I thank you for that. Is the environmental trade off there? Are the economic trade offs there for us? If you look at mining in the past I think my concern is that the economic impact might not be there. Environmental protection might fall through and might not protect us. They always say they're going to but don't seem to pan out at the end. ** Where is the accountability for that? Who incurs that cost? Is the company? I don't see it. I think it's the people of Wisconsin. So if everything fails, like you say on paper it's going to work, that's the way our society is. The problem is, when it fails where's the mechanism for accountability. I think that's where the fear is here. I think if we can clarify just how much of an impact that we're looking at it might be easier for a lot of these people to say ok, we understand. I think the problem here is lack of understanding. Thank you very much.

Jack Martinson stated that he wants the people to express if they want mining or not, in Oneida County. We've spent two years on this, at different times I've spoke to let the people have their say if they want the mine or not. There was a survey done. To those paying attention to it there was a large percentage of the people who did not want mining. That's where I'm at. I don't want these Committee's to keep meeting and meeting. We should have a Public Hearing, which we were supposed to have, but it ended up being an informational meeting not a Public Hearing. A Public Hearing is where everybody gets to speak their piece. Thank you.

** Someone is speaking but cannot determine who or what is being said.

Earl Jackson: I'm from Fond du Lac. I don't represent anybody. I'm speaking from my own experience knowing what I know about mines. I didn't here anybody, I don't know if anybody here has ever worked on a mine. Has anybody ever worked in an open mine? Well, I'm here to tell you that I was an employee of the United States Steel Mine in Northern Minnesota, the worlds open pit mine. I can tell you two things about the aspects of what has transpired in almost the 100 years of the mine being there. The health aspect for miners is pretty tragic. I only worked there five years. If I was to appeal to you the aspects of what mining did to me in five years people would run out of this room screaming. I've had surgeries over the years that have replaced 1/3 of the organs that I had. Not once but twice. That's just the routine for working in an open pit mine after five

years. The people who live up there near the mines have to face generational consequences for, we don't know how long. Right now they are experiencing third generation miners with birth defects and cancers and diseases. One thing the mine never guaranteed was ongoing health care. When I read, early on, the contract the State was going to agree to the mine contract, one of the things that were put in there which was never really fully addressed was the money that would be set aside for long term health care, the generational aspect for the residents who live around Mellen, Wisconsin. After that didn't pass the reality was that mining bill that was sent here was a variation of many other mining bills that was presented to countries like Venezuela, Guatemala, Brazil, Argentina, South Africa, Nigeria, China, Russia – all who said no. They opted for a better contract. A contract where the residents actually had a stipend, like the gentleman talked about in Alaska, they had set aside for health care funds. Now that was good. But the Bill that was presented here for the State Legislature didn't have those kinds of guarantees. It's a darn good thing it didn't pass in Wisconsin. But, I have to remind you, that same Bill, a variation of that was voted down by third world countries for a better Bill. The State of Wisconsin voters were going to vote on that Bill and say 'hey that's wonderful'. I have to tell you if China voted it down and Russia voted it down and Nigeria and South Africa and most of South America voted it down why did public officials here rush to the trough and say that we were going to pass something that **...

That's the aspect of what you should be robbing the scope of. I realize that for the sake of what you're doing you have to be somewhat mind open. You can't be mind open for the whole subject. You have to broaden it at some point in time for other aspects. What you need to have is a little bit of input from people who were miners at some point in time. If you have no expertise here you have no testimony. The other aspect you have to be truthful about is what exactly will happen the day you start mining? I realize you might have a mining Bill in place. The only hope that you have to get you the best possible deal is to go by the example of what the third world countries turned down that kind of Mining Bill that was here in Wisconsin. The other aspect you how property values will change for the property owners in Oneida County when mining starts. I didn't tell you property owners around the United States Steel Mine, they can't give away the titles to their land. It is essentially worthless. But, they have some income from what they own as part owners in the resource. That doesn't transfer down into the next generations. Now you have a great deal of health aspects that the taxpayers of the State of Minnesota have to take up because the contracts that they had with the United States Steel are now the United States Steel. They sublet and leased that mine to the Country of Japan for all those resources for being mined. They used to go to Gary, Indian and Erie, Pennsylvania all these other steel towns that made products. They even went here to Wisconsin because we had businesses that dealt with sheet metals good and they provided lots of jobs. Mirror Corporation was one of the ones with all of the hardware and stoves, cooking pans, rotisseries, microwave ovens and all that. That doesn't exist here in Wisconsin. That whole plant went to China. Now those Wisconsin jobs got booted. The reality of resource mining now, since WW II, is scrap it from American soil and let a foreign company do it. Let the foreigners take it to their Country and provide jobs for them. We're left with probably 4,000 jobs. But the jobs they would have supplied, if the resources would have stayed here, for Americans would have been in the millions. They let a foreign company come in and they sold the mine and the rights to the resources. Those jobs are out. To

me, they don't deserve to be called United States Steel. They don't deserve to the name United States in their logo. They need to be called the United Mining Company of Benedict Arnold or something like that. What they're doing is essentially un-American. It doesn't benefit the rest of us Americans and we're taxpayers.

One single aspect that you have to realize is there is no health insurance policy currently in the United States or any part of the world **for long term health. That includes your Committee members, your Board members and other people who live here in the County. I would say you need to have some in depth information about the truth of what you're going to have to deal with. You're going to have to come up with a policy if you're going to have mining. **

Three times I've been opened up. Periodically twice a year I have to have my blood drained to relieve myself of the mineral pressure of iron, sulfide, acid and magnesium overload that killed my liver. That's pretty much a standard course of medical treatment for most people in the mines. I think you need to broaden your scope, have some more in depth public hearings and comments and realize this is all we have. **It's our duty to guard and make the best of it. It doesn't mean to sell it wholesale and say we've got more of it. The truth of the matter is we don't have any more. Any Geologist or any Scientist will tell you that in the restoration or reclamation of United States fuel mine will laugh at you and say well, it's in the contract but that's not going to happen. It's beyond reclamation. It's beyond restoration. There's a permanent impact. Much the same as an asteroid that hit...**

**

ONEIDA COUNTY TIMBER SALE CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Motion by Martinson/Shidell to accept the amended paragraph for all timber contracts signed after this date. All aye on voice vote. The motion carried.

9:45 P.M. Motion by Martinson/Rudolph to adjourn. All aye on voice vote. The motion carried.

Gary Baier, Chairman

John Bilogan, Director