

Water sale cause for concern

TO THE EDITOR | It was with dismay that I discovered recently that I somehow missed the fact that the water sale between Painted Post and Swepi (Shell) will garner no tax savings nor any other benefits for the villagers of Painted Post other than for the village water system maintenance.

As a property owner in Painted Post, and the daughter and sister of village residents, I was upset to learn about the sale, but had thought, at least, that high property taxes might be lowered for the villagers, or that some needed improvements would be able to be afforded for the village. That this is not the case makes the sale seem to benefit only the gas drilling corporation. It would seem doubtful that the \$4 million garnered every year from the sale would be necessary except to maintain the extra burden of water drawn from the aquifer, and perhaps to maintain the new water pipeline being laid, as we speak, from the public well near Fairview Avenue via Steuben Street, Henley Lane, Charles Street and West Chemung Street to the old foundry site where the water will be delivered by train to the drilling sites. (The funds might be used to rein-

force some of the old water infrastructure, but \$4 million a year would seem to be a little overkill for the small village water needs.)

That the well which I had been told was going to be used, the old Ingersoll-Rand foundry well, was not the well going to be used after all, but that a village well which has not been used for years was going to be the one the water was to be drawn from was not only upsetting but perplexing as well.

When I learned that the village well had been permitted years ago by the proper agencies, whereas the foundry well would need to have an environmental study done in order to be permitted, my confusion turned to cynicism and deep concern. Had the proper studies of the impacts of this water withdrawal been performed? Had geological studies been considered by the village that the alluvial aquifer might not be able to sustain this constant additional drain, especially as other wells within the same aquifer were withdrawing additional huge amounts of water? What about drought studies? What about the disturbance of the contaminated soil at the foundry site? The diesel fumes from the additional train traffic? What other impact studies were dismissed as unnecessary or not expe-

ditious due to the lack of need to apply for a permit or various other reasons?

Since I learned of this water sale I have been concerned that this water is going to be destroyed as it is used for fracking in Pennsylvania. I have been concerned about the continual decimation of the lovely state of Pennsylvania, and felt bad that my birthplace and hometown may in some way be connected to this decimation.

I also recently learned that the destination for the water is not written in the deal; it doesn't have to go to Pennsylvania. With the gas compressor station down the road in Lawrenceville, the water withdrawals all over the town of Erwin, and the Marcellus Shale sitting under the village of Painted Post, I am certain that the water that will be withdrawn from Painted Post and the town of Erwin will be returned to the immediately in the form of slick water from fracking, if fracking is permitted in New York state.

Should any readers, especially in Painted Post, be concerned about this water withdrawal and wish to do something about it, Rachel Treichler of Urbana is a very willing, close by and ready source of information. She can be reached at 569-2114.

Mary T. Finneran

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