

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

February 10th, 1947

Supervisor's Office

8:00 P.M.

Present: Mr. Schmersahl
Mr. McIntyre
Mr. Welchman
Mr. Eberling
Mr. Dillon

Mr. Dillon called the meeting to order, and explained that he had called the Board into emergency session because of the critical gas situation. He said that he wanted to report what he has done so far, and to discuss what may have to be done in the future. Also, Mr. Dillon said that he had asked the various Defense Co-ordinators to be present, as he wanted to see if some emergency committee could be set up under the old Civil Defense System. He then asked what provisions has been made to house the people.

Mr. Frank Johnson, Co-ordinator for Nanuet, told the Board that they have secured the use of the School Auditorium in Nanuet, and that if it is necessary to house the people during the day, the school will discontinue the gym periods. However, Mr. Johnson said that he would like to know when the gas shut off will go into effect, so that he can notify the Principal, Mr. McArthur Baar. Mr. Johnson also told the board that the Firemen will be glad to permit the use of the room in the Nanuet Firehouse during the emergency. The Lutheran Church has offered the use of their Church, and it is believed that the Fellowship Hall of the Baptist Church can be used. Mr. Johnson pointed out that in the event the gas is turned off, people must bring their own coats, blankets and bedding, also cooking utensils, as they are only supplying shelter. They will also have to provide their own food. He told the Board that the Red Cross in Nanuet has been alerted in case a real emergency exists. Mr. Johnson said that although he goes to New York every day, anyone desiring to find shelter can reach him by calling his wife, or if they will call the Police Booth in Nanuet, the message will be transmitted to him.

Mr. Charlest Johnston, General Manager of Mountain View Country Club, then told the Board that he was prepared to offer the use of 46 rooms, plus an additional 11 rooms which can be used if necessary. In addition, accomodations can be had in three of the farmhouses on the property, and altogether he can accomodate about 135 people. He told the Board that temperature is maintained at 45 degrees, and that it may be necessary to

charge the people a small sum to cover the cost of additional heat which will be required. Mr. Johnston told the Board that there are eleven employees, and that they will assist, but that he believed additional help will be needed, and that he would want some supervision. He suggested that possibly assistance could be obtained from the women of the community. Mr. Johnston said that it would take about two days to get the kitchen in operation, since the water has been all drained off, and further that the rooms would require some cleaning and dusting since they have been closed for the winter.

It was then suggested that perhaps the people who will be afforded shelter would be willing to pitch in and help clean and dust the rooms.

Mr. William Ruppert, Co-Ordinator for West Nyack, then reported that he had called his Chief Air Raid Warden and asked him to call all the other Wardens, who in turn would contact the people in their respective districts and ask for heating units, cots, spare rooms, etc. Mr. Ruppert said that several offers have been received from various people who have extra rooms, but as yet he has not received any reports from the Wardens. Several families are doubling up in West Nyack. Conditions are not so bad in his district, but in the event of an emergency, the Church and the fire-house will be available.

Mr. Samuel Henderson, Co-Ordinator for Congers, told the Board that in Congers they have the school, of which both the cafeteria and kitchen can be used. Cots and blankets belonging to the Boy Scouts will be made available. Also, they have the use of the Fire House; the Methodist Church, which has a complete set-up; the Presbyterian Church; and five hotels. In addition Mr. Behrens has offered the use of his Bowling Alleys. Mr. Henderson said that several homes have offered spare rooms.

Mr. George Stoll, Co-Ordinator for Central Nyack, told the Board that the only gas service in Central Nyack is along Route 59 and Piping Rock. If, however, an emergency does exist, the Firehouse will be available, and anyone desiring shelter, can communicate with Mr. DeFlaun or any of the Trustees. The people, however, will have to furnish their own cots and Blankets. There is cooking gas in the kitchen (tank gas) to take care of cooking needs. Mr. Stoll said that they did not anticipate much trouble in Central Nyack.

Mr. Dillon then told the group that Mr. Spear, representing the Rockland Gas Company had called him and advised that the gas would be turned off at 8:00 A. M. tomorrow evening.

Mr. Johnson then told the Board that it would seem the Gas companies have gambled on the extremely mild weather we have been having, that in future they should be made to guarantee the amount of gas they will furnish so that this kind of a situation never happens again. He said that they have agreed to furnish gas to their consumers, and that they have contracted with someone else to furnish them with the gas. It now appears that the supply has been drained so heavily that the Gas companies have not been able to furnish gas to their customers.

Mr. Fritz, Co-Ordinator for New City, told the Board that in New City the use of the School and Firehouse can be obtained, and also the Mountainview Country Club.

Mr. Dillon said that he understood that the Jewish Convalescent Home in Grand View could care for about fifty people. In Valley Cottage, Mr. Dillon pointed out that the use of the School and Church could be obtained, but that the Firehouse could not be used, since it is heated by gas.

Mr. Dillon said he understood that the gas would be turned off only for heating, since the gas company did not want to turn the gas off entirely unless an extreme emergency existed. By turning off the heat, it was believed that enough pressure could be maintained so that gas could be provided for cooking purposes. Mr. Dillon also told the Board that he had been informed that the pipeline coming in is not sufficient to carry the load.

The Board then discussed with Mr. Trachtenberg, Town Attorney, the resolution which is to be sent to Gov. Dewey and to the Public Service Commission.

Mr. Eberling moved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Town of Clarkstown, Rockland County, request Governor Thomas E. Dewey to cause an immediate investigation into the gas shortage in Rockland County and to direct the proper State officials to take all measures necessary to alleviate the gas shortage so as to avoid any disastrous consequences, and in carrying out this purpose to call upon any governmental agency and others for assistance and materials to the end that the gas supply may be replenished; and further

* RESOLVED, that the investigation definitely determine the cause for the present gas shortage and that the persons responsible be made to account, and further

RESOLVED, that any improvements necessary be made so that there be no repetition of a similar situation, and further

RESOLVED, that it be determined whether or not the gas companies serving this Township have exceeded their capacity by recent new installations.

Seconded by Mr. Schmersahl

On roll call, the vote of the Board was as follows:-

Mr. Schmersahl	Yes
Mr. McIntyre	Yes
Mr. Welchman	Yes
Mr. Eberling	Yes
Mr. Dillon	Yes

There being no further business, Mr. Eberling moved the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Mr. Schmersahl

Carried

Meeting adjourned.

Paul M. Martling

 Town Clerk of Clarkstown

ABD 673