

**Regular Town Board Meeting
September 15, 2004**

Call to order at 7:30 P.M.

Roll Call	Supervisor David Kaiser	Present
	Councilman Robert Gerlach	Present
	Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.	Present
	Councilwoman Judy Galipeau	Present
	Councilman S. William Ritchie	Present

Others Present:	Town Clerk, Terry Smith	Present
	Planning Board, Walter Mittermeyer	Present
	Zoning Board Chairperson, Helen Mittermeyer	Present
	Code Enforcement, Lee Hoagland	Present
	Water Commissioner, Jack Holley	Present
	Highway Superintendent, Jim Williamson	Present
	Dog Control Officer, Aaron Covert	Present
	Residents	6

Pledge of Allegiance followed by moment of silence:

Approval of Minutes:

- a. Regular Board Meeting Minutes August 18, 2004
Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie
Second: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau
Carried Unanimously
- b. Special Board Meeting – August 24, 2004
Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie
Second: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau
Carried Unanimously

Petitioners to the Board:

- a. Doug McEver and Darby Kiley of the Cayuga Lake Water Shed Inner Municipal Organization presented themselves to the Town Board and asked for our support of the work being performed by their organization to protect our water resources. Currently, they are in the process of seeking additional funding and project ideas for implementation of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan. The annual membership is \$900.00 for the period of August 2004 through August 2005. They received a grant in the amount of \$230,840.00 from the NYS Department of State Local Waterfront Revitalization Program for implementation of the Restoration and Protection Plan (RPP). In June of 2004, they had applied for another NYS Department of State grant. Projects are proposed for stabilization on Cayuga Lake Road in Romulus, habitat restoration at Salt Point in Lansing and septic system aerial thermal imagery data collection along the Lakeshore in Tompkins County.

Contributions also aid in funding the Floating Classroom and educational activities. Mr. McEver explained the membership fee would be waived for this year, providing we would send an IO member to the monthly meetings. These meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00p.m. Until 9:00 p.m. At this time, a representative was not appointed and a decision regarding this program will come at a later date.

- b. Donna Arnett, a Willard resident, has asked the Town Board to do something about the huge tree in her backyard. Jack Holley and the Highway Department will contact her and schedule a time to get rid of this tree. Jack Holley will speak with WDTC regarding obtaining a work crew to help with the removal of the tree. Also, Donna issued a complaint about the need for a dog noise ordinance in the town. There are some dogs on Main Street that bark continuously. Aaron Covert, Dog Control Officer, will handle this issue.

Communications to be filed:

- a. NYS DOT – Crosswalks on Route 96 – A letter of request was sent to NYS DOT for crosswalk signs on Route 96 in front of the Romulus School. We received a response letter from NYS DOT explaining to us that a study would be completed and they would notify our town of the results and decision. Barb McCall asked the board to inquire about lowering the speed limit in front of the school. Ralph Walborn, Jr. explained to Ms. McCall and others that this request was previously brought to NYS DOT's attention. However, the request was denied because Romulus is a hamlet, rather than a village and therefore the speed limit could not be reduced from 35 MPH to 20 MPH.
- b. RVFD Agreement with Seneca Transportation Service for fire service – The Romulus Volunteer Fire Department forwards this contract to our town for our information, as a courtesy.
- c. USDA – Affordable Housing – The correspondence, which was sent, is to advise our residents of the availability of funds for those who qualify for this program.
- d. Annual Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Date – October 16, 2004
Residents must contact Seneca County to schedule an appointment to use this service on the date of October 16th of 2004. Attached is a listing of items that will be accepted.
- e. Seneca County Rabies Clinic – September 25, 2004 from 1:00-2:00 pm at Seneca County Highway Department located on Prospect Street in the Hamlet of Romulus.
- f. South Seneca Ambulance has submitted their budget increase request raising their rate in 2005 from \$25.00 per parcel to \$30.00 per parcel. They also included for our review a copy of their financial statement. The board members and residents reviewed this financial statement. Many had concerns regarding the lack of information in the budget. The Ambulance Corps. Monthly meeting will be held September 23, 2004 at the Ambulance Corp.

building. Dave would appreciate it if all the board members would try to attend this meeting.

- g. Neighborhood Watch Program – There has been problems this summer with vandalism at the Herson Park and at some homes in Willard. State troopers were invited to a Community Meeting, which was held at the town hall on September 1, 2004. Many residents from the neighborhood attended this meeting and were very interested in the Neighborhood Watch Program the New York State Troopers suggested we consider. The Hamlet of Romulus already has a Neighborhood Watch Program, however Willard does not at this time. A State Trooper will address, at a meeting in October, the steps we need to take to set up a Neighborhood Watch Program for our community.
- h. Rural Water Develops Fleet Program – The Rural Water Assoc. buys their vehicles through a fleet dealership. We will be looking into this in hopes of purchasing vehicles cheaper than state bid prices. Jack Holley will be obtaining information soon on the available inventory and how to bid.
- i. Association of Towns – Loss of Justice Court Fees – The State has passed a law that allows them to keep more of the justice court fees than they have in the past years. The Association of Towns is asking us to join them in opposing this. We have a resolution supporting the Association of Towns efforts to restore funds to our justice courts.

Zoning Board's Report: See attached report. Helen Mittermeyer gave her report. Mrs. Mittermeyer explained that the Zoning Board has finished a set of by-laws. The by-laws can be modified and changed at a later time, if we find there is need to make changes. When establishing the by-laws, the zoning board followed the outline of the Zoning Board of Appeals Technical series in the Department of State. The Zoning Board would appreciate the Town Board's opinion of these by-laws.

Planning Board – See attached report. Tom Bouchard expects to have the Wind Farm study ready to be presented by the October meeting. Singlewide trailers – Proposal will read as before. The phrase “Singlewide mobile homes shall be allowed in agricultural zones on farms for farm uses” will be taken out. Also, Supervisor Kaiser's statement “that most singlewide trailers are better constructed than most of the homes in Willard” refers to the fire codes and safety codes. The Planning Board will be revising the set backs and information regarding junkyards. They will then present these revisions to the town for their review and approval in November 2004. With reference to property maintenance, the County has the responsibility for enforcing the laws on property maintenance. However, it appears the county does not enforce the laws on property maintenance. Therefore, the Town of Romulus may want to speak with Mr. Gabriel regarding the authority, if any, the town has to do something to encourage cleanup of properties. Mr. Gabriel has been in touch with Mr. Wolff regarding the Dickens Property. They are in the process of trying to find an heir to Mr. Dickens and his sister. They have one more avenue to pursue and that would be to advertise. After this is done, Mr. Dickens will be given power of attorney over his sister's estate. Mrs. Martin has contacted an auction service and within the next few weeks there will be an auction on the contents. After that is done, Mr. Dickens has given permission for the houses to be

taken down. Richard Compton's property on Route 96 is almost as bad as the Dickens property. Also down near Bulls Head, there is property owned by Bob Jennings that needs to be addressed.

Zoning Enforcement Officer – See attached report.

Highway Superintendent – See attached report. There will be a Highway Committee meeting on September 20, 2004 at 8am with the Highway Superintendent and the Town Board to discuss the possibility of buying a new truck. The meeting will be posted on the Clerks Board, front door and Ovid Gazette via Neil Chaffee. The Highway Inventory was given to the board and submitted to the clerk for filing.

Dog Control Officer's – See attached report. Aaron spoke with Ms. Arnett and assured her he would address her complaint and issue a ticket to the dog's owner.

Assessor's Report – See attached report. Due to the difficulty in attempting to bring five towns together for a meeting, the assessor will hold quarterly meetings rather than monthly. Therefore, reports will be given to the towns on a quarterly basis.

- a. Minutes from September 1, 2004 meeting
- b. Office of Real Property Services – Collaboration
- c. 2004 Triennial Aid Assistance

Water Commissioner's Report – There were no emergencies this month. Jack said they would be flushing hydrants next month. There has been a great amount of construction going in at the Lakeshore area, therefore Jack and his crew have been putting in taps and doing a lot of waterline work. They are also trying to start preparing for the upcoming winter season. Jack assured the board he would try to get a crew to Ms. Arnett's residence to remove the tree.

Bookkeeper Report – See attached report.

Supervisor's Report – Our bookkeeper is due to have surgery in a few weeks and we would like to get our budget in place before that time. This was the first week of operation for the Seneca bus service. Although, it is not clear in the pamphlets as to the location of the south end of the county stops, we can tell you the stop in Willard is in front of the Town Hall. We understand there are 2 stops in the Hamlet of Romulus, however, there does not appear to be a stop at Verona Village for the elderly. Ovid, Interlaken, Romulus and Willard do not indicate the specific locations for the bus stops. We may want to address this with the bus service. The tentative budget was submitted to the Town Clerk for filing and to the board members for their review.

Committee Reports:

- a. Hernon Park next meeting will be September 29, 2004 at 6:00 PM.
- b. Willard DTC/5 Points Facilities – No meeting was held this month

Old Business:

- a. Tentative Budget; a copy of budget has been provided for your review. One of the largest increases was the NYS Retirement. Our retirement payment went from \$1,200.00 in 2004 to an anticipated payment of \$26,000.00 for the year 2005. Over many years the Town of Romulus paid more money into the Retirement system than they were actually billed. We built up a large surplus over the years and for several years now the retirement system has been applying the surplus to our owed amount, which kept the amount relatively low. This year they applied our last \$7000 we had in reserve to the bill so next year we can expect approximately \$32000 or \$33000 as a billing amount. Our liability and fire insurance cost is going to be at an increase of \$3500 for next year. Most of the personnel received a 3% raise. Dumpster days also shows an increase, because we have changed this to twice a year rather than once. With reference to revenues, our interest was way down on all accounts by more than half, which is not surprising. On the plus side, we are going to see a decrease in our lighting districts and also in the debt service for the joint sewer. The overall budget shows an increase of \$.18 per thousand and still we have a decrease from last year's increase.

New Business:

- a. A budget workshop was scheduled for September 29, 2004 from 8:00 am until 9:30 am at the Town Building. This meeting will be posted.
- b. The Preliminary Budget hearing is scheduled for October 6, 2004 at 8:00 am and will be posted and advertised.
- c. A public hearing to adopt the budget is scheduled for October 20, 2004 at 7:00 PM. This will be advertised and posted. This is covered by resolution #70-04.
- d. Water/Sewer Bills – 45 days delinquent automatic shut off discussion and suggestions. Supervisor Kaiser would like the board to consider changing the policy. He explained the town has some bills that were very delinquent. Some users owed so much that it becomes a problem for all concerned. The bookkeeper would like it to read “if you are 45 days delinquent, it will be an automatic shut off”. This could be printed on the bills so that they will know this. It will save money for the town also. We will work on it next month.
- e. Zoning Board Members – We have two people who have expressed interest in becoming a Zoning Board Member. One does not live in the Town of Romulus and the board feels that will raise legal questions. Todd McIntosh is a Town of Romulus resident and he is interested in becoming a Zoning Board member. The board members have decided it would be best if the Zoning Board positions were filled with Romulus residents.

Resolutions:

67-04 Verification of Payables

Motioned: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Carried Unanimously

68-04 Bingo License #558 for the RVFD

Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

69-04 Support Restoration of Traffic Fine Revenue

Motioned: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously

70-04 Authorization to Advertise for Public Hearings

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously

71-04 Accept 2005 Tentative Budget

Motioned: Councilwoman Judy Galipeau

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously

Town Clerk's Report

a. Monthly Report – See Attached

b. Liquor License – Lakeshore Grille – Katherine Frantz-Rodriquez – See Attached

Next town Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, October 20, 2004 @7:30 PM

Adjournment Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously