

**Regular Town Board Meeting
Town of Romulus
November 16, 2005**

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Town of Romulus Town Board was called to order by Supervisor David Kaiser at 7:30 PM.

Roll Call:	Supervisor David Kaiser	Present
	Councilman Robert Gerlach	Present
	Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.	Present
	Councilwoman Barbara McCall	Present

Others Present: Terry Smith, Town Clerk
Lee Hoaglan, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Jack Holley, Water Commissioner
Neil Chaffee, Ovid Gazette
Residents 5

Pledge of Allegiance – Followed by a moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes:

October 19, 2005 – Regular Board Meeting

Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

October 24, 2005 – Public Hearing Special Meeting

Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Seconded: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Carried Unanimously

Petitioners to the Board:

Pat Jones, Seneca County IDA – Regarding re-designation of certain areas as an Empire Zone. Mrs. Jones is the Empire Zone Coordinator for Seneca County. In April of this year (2005) our New York State Legislature and the Governor enacted into law, changes to the Empire Zone, whereby each existing zone had to re-designate its zone acreage into six (6) distinct and continuous areas. Up until now, we had three zones which took up 75% of your acreage. After that you were allowed to have 25% scattered anywhere in the County. They have taken away that 75 and 25% rule. Now you have to designate six (6) separate areas. The Seneca County Empire Zone Administrative Board approved 6 areas for Seneca County on October 20, 2005. We must pass a local law prior to December 31, 2005 designating the boundaries of the Zone. Also, we need confirming resolutions from all our municipalities that are going to be included in the Zone.

Currently, Romulus is one of our Zones and will remain one of the six (6) zones. Romulus currently has 252 acres in the Zone. The zone is located on the Seneca Army Depot, from the main entrance on Route 96, Industrial Area and the Warehouse area is included in the Empire Zone. That comprises 252 acres. Nothing has changed. Town of

Romulus has a resolution to be voted on in the Board meeting tonight. Empire Zone was created by the Governor back in 1988. Originally, there were 30 zones. Seneca County was awarded one of the original zones because of the closure of the Seneca Army Depot. Your property has to be included in the Empire Zone. To be eligible to be a Zone qualified business you must have a \$750,000 investment in the property. This could be a property acquisition or property expansion. You must employ at least 10 individuals at a starting pay of at least \$8 per hour. Retail businesses do not qualify for Empire Zone. The Empire Zone is mainly looking for manufacturing jobs. Once you are Zone-certified and have met all the criteria, you have to maintain that level of employment or you lose your benefits. There is now a tracking system in place and the annual reports from the business are now forwarded to the local zone office and the employment numbers are verified with the Department of Labor and if the individuals do not continue to maintain or increase their jobs, then they will be decertified and will lose their benefits.

Some of the benefits that the Empire Zone can get are Real Property Taxes. They actually get a credit for their real property taxes. That is good for 10 years once a business is certified. They also get monies for training, up to \$1500 per individual. There also is an energy credit. This is offered through NYSEG. This was intended to bring new businesses into the state. We currently have 25 businesses in Seneca County that are certified.

Petitioner to the Board:

Fred Swain wanted to know why we bought Christmas lights for the 3 hamlet instead of using the money for the employees' raises or Highway Department or fixing the roads. It should be used for contingency purposes. Supervisor Kaiser stated that "we did account for the increased fuel costs in the budget. There was \$15,000 rolled back into our town budget. The highway budget is very healthy. The last 3 years the highway tax was taxed on \$28,000 more than it spent or used. That was taken away as the money was not being spent. The highway surplus is 5 times more than what the state comptroller's office says we should have in it. The highway fund is way in the green. We also gave the taxpayers a .14 per thousand decrease on their tax bill this year. The workers all got a 3% pay raise and the health care is from last year. We left it the same. Last year, the town revised the policy on the health care contributions which affected two people in the town. In 1994, the town passed a resolution that all employees hired after 1994 would 20% of their health care insurance. We only had two who were hired before 1994 and that was the only two that this affected." "Mr. Swain said that it isn't likely that putting up Christmas lights will increase the business in the towns." Some people don't feel that this was a good use of the money but that also was a judgment call. The board thought about the lights and made that decision.

The issue of cell phones was brought up that the board took the cell phone away from the highway department and Lee Hoaglan, Zoning Officer, as well as the Water Department. Supervisor Kaiser stated the Highway Department has radios in their trucks. As far as Mr. Hoaglan goes, he had a problem with many people calling him on his cell phone for Zoning issues and Mr. Hoaglan would take care of that business on the phone and that would run his phone above the bottom amount. Since then, the board instituted some reforms on that and Set Mr.

Hoaglan up with office hours. Mr. Hoaglan has been encouraged to give people his office number. They can call here and make appointments. This will save Mr. Hoaglan from running around every time he gets a phone call. Mr. Swain would like to have seen the money put back in the budget and give the employees better raises.

Communications to be filed: See Attached

- a. Association of Towns Training School & Annual Meeting. Resolution made to attend for Councilwoman Barbara McCall and Kyle Collinsworth, Sr., newly elected.
- b. Excellus Blue Choice – Retirement Options
- c. Letter written to Varick per Joan Teichner’s request – Varick’s Town Board has since voted to keep it at their meeting 11/14/05.

Code Enforcement Officer – See Attached

The Baptist Church Road trailer issue has been resolved. The trailer has been moved. Mr. Hoaglan called the trailer moving business himself and made the arrangements to have it done. We are presently working on getting a new Zoning Law passed to have an annual trailer park registration and annual inspection. We need to get some kind of form for these people to fill out.

Planning Board’s Report

The Planning Board is involved in a special permit and possibly 2 permits. One is going to be quite extensive and they are quite busy on that. They are also working on the property maintenance stuff. There is a lot to it. One more thing, tonight could you put in a resolution to put an advertisement in the paper so that people know about this property maintenance code that has been passed. This is just to give people the idea that we do now have a property maintenance code.

Zoning Board Report – There was no meeting this month and no new variances have been scheduled.

Highway Superintendent’s Report – See Attached

- a. e-mail from a resident with concerns regarding horse manure
- b. snow removal contract with Romulus Central School
- c. Cayuga Lake Watershed Grant approved

Dog Control Officer’s Report – See Attached

- a. Free Rabies Clinic on Saturday, November 19, 2005 from 10 AM to 11 AM at the Seneca County Highway Department
- b. New revisions to the dog licensing law. Need to determine if the town wants to remain with the annual dog licensing or change to once every three years, paying three years up front.

- c. Mr. Covert gave Mr. Hoaglan a complaint about a lot of abandoned cars on Tacketts Property. It was found that with the help of the New York State Police that every vehicle was registered and insured.

Bookkeeper's Report – See Attached

Water Commissioner's Report

Mr. Holley stated that he is getting ready for winter and that his employees are busy flushing all the fire hydrants. The Highway Department wants to start blacktopping some of the back streets in Willard and we need to do the water replacement first. I talked to the Health Dept. to find out all the regulations and what they need us to do and what they would like to see is an overall plan to replace all the lines in the Hamlet first and then what this proposal is, the contractor will go thru and deal with the health department and draw up blueprints, specs to hook up old lines and new lines. This is just a proposal and we will look at other people and get some more pricing and get this approved by the Health Dept. first.

- a. Estimates and engineers report for First Street and Pleasant Street Water/Sewer/Road project. Engineers report would cover entire Willard/Extension Water/Sewer districts.
- b. Water Works Conference regarding optimizing water quality, pressure, filtration and arsenic removal regulation updates. The state requires us to have so much training every year.

Assessor's Report

Our STAR Administrative Aid payment will be \$685.29

Supervisor's Report

The only item I have for you this evening is Mr. Nozzolio has approached the board asking our assistance in helping him to develop and establish the veterans cemetery in the Town of Romulus. This will be put on land that was formerly the Sampson Naval Hospital. He is going to be introducing legislation in Albany, along with Assemblyman Kolb helping him to have that property now owned by the Department of Corrections turned over to the Seneca County IDA and allocating 100 acres to be set aside for the Veterans Cemetery. I have extended the Romulus Town Board's interest in this project and this is all subject to negotiations and what we feel is a fair arrangement.

Committee Report – Hernon Park minutes attached. The next meeting will be April 26, 2006 @ 9 AM.

Old Business – Nothing

New Business – Nothing

Resolutions

Resolution #72-05 Support and Concur in Seneca County's Application for Re-designation of Certain Areas Within Seneca County as an Empire Zone

Motioned: Supervisor David Kaiser

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #73-05 Romulus Central School Snow Removal Contract
Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Seconded: Councilwoman Barbara McCall
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #74-05 Authorize Newly Elected Officials to Attend Conferences
Motioned:
Seconded:
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #75-05 Authorize Water Dept. Employees to Attend Conference
Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #76-05 Budget Transfers – Appropriations
Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #77-05 Verification of Payables
Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

Resolution #78-05 Authorized to Advertise Notice to Public That Zoning Has
Been Revised
Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

Town Clerks Report – See Attached

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

Motioned: Councilwoman Barbara McCall
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

The next meeting will be December 21, 2005 at 7:30 PM

