

DRAFT
Regular Town Board Meeting
May 21, 2008

Call To Order: The regular Town Board Meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM. by Supervisor.

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

Others Present: Town Clerk, Terry Smith
Planning Board Chairman, Barry Roach
Highway Superintendent, Jim Williamson
Water Commissioner, Jack Holley
Dog Control Officer, Aaron Covert
Finger Lakes Times, Paulette Likoudis
Ovid Gazette, Neil Chaffee
Residents 16

Approval of Minutes:

A. April 16, 2008 – Regular Town Board Meeting
Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

Petitioners to the Board:

Mary Anne Kowalski – Regarding Commercial Dog Breeding Kennels
Was not in attendance.

Communications to be filed:

- A. Commercial Dog Breeding Kennels
- i. Several Letters for locals expressing concerns The Town has been deluged with letters and e-mails and phone calls from people regarding commercial dog breeding Kennels. In the board packet are copies of e-mail and ones that were sent. Also, I was provided a Seneca Falls code that I was provided as an example and also one from Varick. Supervisor Kaiser presented a copy of this example to the Planning Committee Chairman, Barry Roach. A proposed moratorium from the Town of Romulus is also enclosed to be considered next month at the June Meeting. I would like to schedule a public hearing in June 2008 to consider a one year moratorium of any construction of any new dog breeding facility or any expansion of any existing facility.
 - ii. Seneca Falls Codes to review for example

- iii. Varick Codes to review for example
- iv. Proposed Moratorium Regarding Commercial Dog Breeding Kennels
- B. South Seneca Ambulance Financials & statistics for first 4 months of 2008.
- C. Notice of Public Informational Meeting Regarding Seneca BioEnergy, LLC will be held at the Romulus Fire Hall Thursday, May 29, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.
- D. Time Warner Franchise Fees Due based on Gross Sales
- E. Board of Elections Requesting the Close of Hayts Corners Polling Site
- F. Town of Romulus Town Board Justification and Request to keep Hayts Corners Polling Site Open.

The Board did not agree with this. Supervisor Kaiser presented a letter to the Board of Supervisors on May 13, 2008 in protest the closing of this polling site. I met with the Board of elections today May 21, 2008, they told me that the Federal Help America Vote Act legislation did not provide enough funding to provide for enough new machinery for all the polling sites in the county as well as the fact that there will be an extra cost incurred because of the new voting system that the county will have to absorb. That is why they are trying to absolve some election districts. However, it is Supervisor Kaiser's belief that could be more easily done in a place like Seneca Falls or Waterloo than it can be out in a rural community like the Town of Romulus. Their letter was sent May 2, 2008 and the deadline for change a polling site was May 1, 2008. We did not receive notification that it would be closed until after that deadline. I do not believe proper procedure was followed. With the Board's permission, I will bring this up at the next County Board Meeting with the Government Operations Committee. I will file a second protest.

- G. FOIL Request from Thomas J. Klotzbach
- H. Response to FOIL Request
- I. Restore N Communities Project Description
- K. NYS Division of Alcohol Beverage Control Regarding changes
- L. Upcoming Schools and conferences
 - i. Planning & Zoning Summer Schools

Zoning Officer:

Permits Issued Attached

Town Planning Board:

- A. Minutes Attached – May 5, 2008
- B. Docks & Moorings
 - i. Meeting Review – March 27, 2008
 - ii. Meeting Review – April 30, 2008

Chairman Barry Roach pointed out that the IDA has released a letter asking that all involved agencies, to state their intention to serve as the lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review for the Seneca Bio Fuels Bio Energy Company. That letter requests a response within 30 days. We received the letter on May 6, 2008. We have until June 5, 2008 to respond and our next meeting is June 2, 2008. To serve as lead agency for the BioEnergy Company would

involve a significant effort on the part of the Town Planning Board. The Planning Board members are questioning whether they want to do that. If no one responds by appropriate date, the DEC Commissioner will appoint a lead agency. Seneca BioEnergy approached the Planning Board with a request for a special permit to commence their building operation on the Depot. We will grant the special permit after the State Environmental Quality Review process is completed. The second thing I would like to point out is the Farm Land Protection Program. This is funding that comes from the Department of Agriculture and Markets and it is to protect farm lands. It is not administered by the Towns. We can as the Town of Romulus apply for a \$25,000 grant to take a look at the utilization of farms in our town as to how they may be preserved. We would invite the farmers and all other citizens of the Town, to come in and take a look at the maps and correct them if necessary and identify where we have agricultural zones and where we would like to keep agricultural zones. The purpose in doing this would be to update our maps and also to plan for the future of the town so that we may preserve the future of the town as an agricultural area. It will also serve as a chapter for the comrades of planning process. There is a resolution that is available. The town needs to upgrade our comprehensive plan as the last one that was done was 10 years ago. This will be a big help in funding of this plan. The Town of Lodi has already applied for this grant and has received it as well as the Town of Junius. It is beneficial for the character of the Town and updating our present districts so that they can be put on a map. Supervisor recommends that we pursue this grant. We will put this down as Resolution #46-08.

One other item for the Planning Board is the Puppy Mills in our Town. The Planning Board voted to send a resolution to the Town Board asking for a moratorium on the formation of any kennels. We do not have a good definition of Kennel for boarding facilities or any specifics on how to handle requests for kennels. We think if we follow the USDA guide lines, we can listen to all concerned citizens and all sides of the questions, and come up with a reasonable ordinance that would govern the use of Kennels in our area. Supervisor Kaiser recommends that the Board consider this moratorium to give us a chance to figure out and investigate what is going on.

Seneca County Planning Board:

Agenda and Minutes Attached

Town Zoning Board:

No meeting was held.

Highway Superintendent:

Monthly Report Attached.

We had a very good turnout for dumpster days. We still have 4 dumpsters that have not been picked up yet. We filled 7 dumpsters in one day. Next Dumpster day is June 14, 2008.

Dog Control Officer:

Report Attached

Water Commissioner:

Mr. Holley reported repairing a small leak on Propsect Street in the Hamlet of Willard last week. We replaced a hydrant that was bad in Willard. Next month Highway Supt. Jim Williamson and I will be working again on replacing a water line in the hamlet of Willard.

Bookkeeper:

Report Attached:

Supervisor:

Committees:

- A. Next Hernon Park Meeting June 17, 2008 @ 9:00 AM.
They are looking at working on June 1, 2008 to clean up and fix up. Pat Storrs is fixing up the dugouts. Two weeks ago we had a youth group come in and plant flowers and trees at the park. Mr. Storrs has volunteered his time and efforts to rebuild the dugouts that South Seneca Central School had donated to the Park. The electrical boxes are still being broken into. Angel Lawrence suggested building another box around the electrical box to help prevent it being broken into again.
 - i. April Minutes Attached
- B. Community Advisory Meeting Minutes Attached
- C. Romulus Historical Society Minutes Attached.
- D. Joint Historical Society Meeting Notes Attached.

Old Business: Resident Bill Bowen asked about buying some security cameras that had had been talked about in a previous meeting for the Park since it had been broken into before. Supervisor Kaiser said he would be checking into that again.

New Business: Dallyn Jenkins, owner of the Beverly Animal Shelter in Waterloo, spoke up about the moratorium and said she was very appreciative as that will slow down these “puppy mills”. Resident Clare Redditt asked what could be done with the “puppy mill” that has already been started. We have to pass a resolution to hold a public hearing and then allow for notification of the public hearing so that it will be next month before we could hold it. Hopefully, the Board will agree to pass this moratorium and then it will go into effect in the June Meeting. In the Moratorium, it is asking for the freezing any new mills that are being built and/or any expansions of ones that are in existence. It doesn’t bar existing operating kennels. The question was asked if they didn’t have to have a permit? Aaron Covert, Dog Control Officer said, “Mr. Yoder has done all his paper work. He has a USDA permit, and is licensed through Agriculture and Markets. Supervisor said, just because they are licensed by USDA

or have an Agriculture & Markets License that they can't be unregulated or uncontrolled. I believe this is very important for the Planning Board to investigate. Mr. Covert said that they are controlled. They are inspected twice a year by USDA and 2 times a year by Agriculture and Markets. They inspect for sanitary conditions and inspected to meet government standards. Their requirements are very low. Mrs. Redditt said that they have to have food and water and they let them do just about anything. Supervisor Kaiser asked if they were required to have veterinarian care? It was not sure about exact requirements. Ms. Jenkins said even with the moratorium we can correct conditions now and add on different zoning laws. We are never going to regulate care and loving but we can cut the numbers and limit them to 25. Some of the dogs that are received are cared for it is the quantity that needs to be regulated. There is a Joint Committee formed between the Historical Societies of Romulus, Ovid, Interlaken, Covert and Lodi. On July 14, 2008 we will be dedicating the Agricultural College at Willard. It was the first chartered Agricultural College in the Country. It started in 1855 on the grounds of Willard Psychiatric Center known as Grandview. The college closed during the Civil War. Toward the close of the Civil War the United States Congress, moved to Ithaca and that is how Cornell University got it's start. The public is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Resolutions:

44-08 Verification of Payables #388-442
Motioned: Councilman Kyle Collingsworth
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously

45-08 Moratorium in Effect for a Period of One-Year Prohibiting the Construction or Operation of new kennels And/Or Pet Breeders or the expansion of existing kennels in the Town of Romulus.
Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

46-08
Motioned: Councilman Kyle Collingsworth
Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

Town Clerks Report:

Town Clerk's Financial Report Attached

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The Next meeting will be June 18, 2008 at 7:30 PM.

Motioned: Councilman Councilwoman Barbara McCall
Seconded: Councilman Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously.