

**Regular Town Board Meeting
July 16, 2003**

Call to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Raymond Zajac

Present Roll Call: Councilman David Kaiser
Councilman S. William Ritchie
Councilman Robert Gerlach
Supervisor Raymond Zajac

Others present: Town Clerk Terry Smith
Water Commissioner Jack Holley
Highway Superintendent Jim Williamson
Zoning Code Enforcement Officer Lee Hoaglan
Planning Board Chair Walter Mittermeyer
Dog Control Officer Aaron Covert
Ovid Gazette reporter Neil Chaffee
5 residents

Pledge of Allegiance, followed by moment of silence.

Approval of Minutes:

Motioned by: Councilman William Ritchie
Seconded by: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Communications to be Filed: None.

Petitioners to the Board: Bill Armitage is concerned about the land purchase bordering his farm. He would like to know if the intent is to divide that land into small lots for a trailer park, etc. His main concern is that the sewer and water table would be affected. He was advised that there would be a public hearing before land could be divided. Pam Armitage also stated that it was advertised in the Pennysaver as 2-acre lots. It will have to go through the proper channels. Before any sale closed, they would have to go through the proper channels. Legal protection would be on your side. This information will be checked into. The Health Dept. will also have to be involved.

Bill Bowen would like to fill in his ditch in front of his property. He would like to know what needs to be done. There are guide lines that have to be followed through the highway dept. The main concern was the liability clause to unclog and the decision was that it would not be up to the town but to the owner himself. The town supervisor referred it to Jim Williamson and the highway committee and have them get together with the town's attorney to see what can or cannot be done and within 30 days come back with a recommendation or some piece of legislation acceptable to the people and acceptable to the town.

Zoning Board's Report: The zoning board is looking for some new members. There is one full time and one part time position available. Mr. Dickens has consulted his attorney about the demolition of the two houses on Route 96A.

Code Enforcement Officer's Report: See attached report. Some concern was shown about yard sales and vegetable road signs and Mr. Hoaglan said that all road signs must

be off the road. Mr. Hoaglan has asked that some help be given to his department as it is becoming more demanding on his time. The suggestion was to limit his availability and become more stern about his available time.

Planning Board Report: See attached. A copy of the Planning Board's minutes are attached. We finished our bylaws and the revision to them and they were distributed. We also approved two soil erosion recommendations for building sites at Lake Shore Landing.

Highway Superintendent's Report: See attached. There is some damage that has been done to several of the roads in the Town of Romulus by the steel wheels of the Amish buggies. I have an estimate to repair those roads for all the damage to approximately 4 miles of road. It is attached to my report. There is a bill for \$49,775 that will be the cost of repairing the roads that were damaged. Do we submit this bill to the person who did the damage? Supervisor Zajac thinks we have to. We need to get serious about not allowing this type of thing to happen. My understanding is on a county level, the Public Safety Committee, we are going to talk about it and not allowing this to happen. The person who did the damage admitted to the Sheriff that he was doing damage but he proceeded to go because he figured he didn't have any other way to get to where he was going. One of the residents suggested that they contact the Town of Starkey that has also had much the same problems and possibly get some ideas on what they did that might help our situation. They went to rubber wheels on their buggies. There are about 5 counties that all have rubber wheels on the buggies.

Dog Control Officer's Report: See attached.

Assessor's Report: Nothing.

Water Commissioner's Report: I have been real busy at the Depot. They are starting to dig on the Depot for a gas line. When they get up around our water lines, we will have to put someone with them every day till they get through our section. Other than that, it is normal. By October, they wanted to have gas in 5 Points Correctional Facility.

Bookkeeper's Report: See attached.

Supervisor's Report: I spent most of the day (July 16, 2003) in Syracuse in Deputy Spitzer's office discussing the Indian Land Claim. The Oklahoma Seneca and Cayuga Indians are trying to build a Bingo Hall in the Town of Aurilius. The discussion was about tax on cigarettes, land, etc. People are going to rebel with this sovereign nation. The tribes will continue even though it is being contested in court. The state can make them pay taxes but how would we ever collect them or enforce it. The last time we tried to enforce it, they closed the Thruway and the State's thoughts are not just to pass something but to make sure it can be enforced. They are looking forward to have an up-front tax on them where they would pay so much and how they would do that I don't know. The pressure has to be put on the Federal level to ratify those old treaties. That is the only place it's going to happen. It's not going to happen in the State of New York. The board members need to read this information to see how bad the system is and how no matter if there is a settlement or whatever how they just continue to piggyback on this thing.

We are still working on the census. We will be getting about 2300 or 2400 more people added to our rolls. I am working with anyone who will listen to me. It's been 4 years without the right count. It will cost \$38,000 to come down here to count the people. We need someone to stand up and do something for us. We know you are right and you have proven that to us but we want \$38,000 to come down here to count these people. Never once was there a mention of the cost. We need someone to stand up for us, but all they do is write a letter for us. We need more than that.

The matter of the sludge problem is that DEC wants to be the lead agency. One of the reasons for becoming lead agency is we would have the power to monitor the program and see the test results. We will table the sludge for another month and see what John Yaw says. I feel that DEC needs to come down and discuss this problem with us. Nobody is anxious to become the lead agency here.

Committees Reports: Hernon Park committee met for their May meeting and there was a mix up because there was only 3 members were in attendance. The meeting was rescheduled for July 30, 2003 at 6 p.m. There is a back stop at Willard that I will bring up at the next meeting and I will see if I can get that for the Park. The minutes for the Willard DTC/Five Points Facilities are attached. There was a nice dinner

Old Business: None

New Business: The fire training site on the Depot Airfield will have its ribbon cutting ceremonies at 11 a.m. on July 19, 2003. The State Police sub-station will also open. No notice has been given to us about vacating our premises. There will also be two C47s that will land on the airstrip for the opening. Some question was brought up about this air strip becoming a county airport and the FAA will only allow one regional airport and that one is in Seneca Falls.

The town budget is due to get under way for the new year. Lake Shore Landing will help with the tax rates. There are some things I really need to pick apart such as Zoning and that type of stuff. It would be nice if we get started early.

Property Management Regulations – We have one area and that is the management of unkept properties. We have the right to clean up and bill the owner by putting it on the taxes. A resolution was put together and it gives 10 days notice by mail and then we go into clean up until we hear from the owner. Our main area is the fronts of the houses just to make them look good.

Resolutions:

#50-03 Letter of Support

Put on hold till the August 20, 2003 meeting. Dan Motill will be at the August Meeting.

#51-03 Budget Appropriations Transfers

Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Second: Councilman Robert Gerlach

#52-03 Verification of Payables

Motion: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Second: Councilman David Kaiser

#53-03 Planning Board to Contract Engineer for Subdivision Regulations

Motion: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Second: Councilman David Kaiser

#54-03 Property Management Regulations
Motion: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Second: Councilman S. William Ritchie

#55-03 Clerk Authorized to Advertise
Motion: Councilman David Kaiser
Second: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Town Clerk's Report: See attached.

Executive Session:

Motion: S. William Ritchie
Started at 9:05 p.m. and ended at 9:17 p.m.

The Next board meeting will be August 20, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjourn Meeting:

9:20 p.m.
Motion: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Second: Councilman S. William Ritchie