

Town of Romulus
Regular Town Board Meeting
January 19, 2005

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

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

Others Present: Town Clerk, Terry Smith
Planning Board Chairman, David Hayes
Zoning Board Officer, Lee Hoagland
Highway Superintendent, Jim Williamson
Water Commissioner, Jack Holley
Vice Chairman, Planning Board, Barry Roach
Planning Board, Tom Bouchard
Ovid Gazette, Neil Chaffee
Residents 2

Pledge of Allegiance: Followed by moment of Silence

Approval of Minutes:

- a. December 30, 2004 – Closeout Meeting
Motioned: Councilman S. William Ritchie
Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Carried Unanimously
- b. January 5, 2005 – Reorganization Meeting
Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach
Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.
Carried Unanimously

Petitioners to the Board: See Attached. Tom Bouchard, from the Planning Board and Barry Roach Vice Chairman of the Planning Board, presented the Town of Romulus Board with a presentation on the Wind Energy. Wind energy is a renewable source of electricity which could bring great returns for our town and our region. It attracts new business and lowers utility rates for residents and businesses. It attracts new employment opportunities. By 2013 New York State is committed to have 25% of energy needs from renewal sources. We have the area for use for this project. We need approximately 50 acres per turbine. They should not be in the way of dwellings or farms. These turbines should be accessible to transmission and distribution. The way to do this is identify the people and entities to be included. They are the Town of Romulus, Seneca County Board of Supervisors, IDA, NYSERDA, DEC, Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman Kolb. We

should investigate the experience of other towns. Contact NYSERDA to gather consulting assistance and sources of grants. We need to start the preliminary methodology to track the availability of wind in this area. There are 10 steps to be taken to build a wind farm.

1. Understand Your Wind Resource. The most important factor to consider is the construction of a wind energy facility is the site's wind resource.
2. Determine Proximity to Existing Transmission Lines. A critical issue in keeping costs down in building a wind farm is minimizing the amount of transmission infrastructure that has to be installed.
3. Secure Access to Land. Landowners, both private and public, will expect to be compensated for any wind energy development that occurs on their land.
4. Establish Access to Capital. Building a wind farm is not cheap. On average, wind power development costs around \$1 million per megawatt (MW) of generating capacity installed.
5. Identify Reliable Power Purchaser or Market. To date, wind energy is the most cost competitive renewable energy option on the market. In fact, wind energy's cost has declined so much that it rivals many traditional power generation technologies.
6. Addressing Siting and Project Feasibility Considerations. The fact that a site is windy does not mean it is suitable for wind power development. A developer needs to consider many factors to siting a project.
7. Understand Wind Energy's Economics. There are many factors contributing to the cost and productivity of a wind plant.
8. Obtain Zoning and Permitting Expertise. Siting any power project can be a daunting task due to the dizzying array of social and environmental factors at play.
9. Establish Dialogue with Turbine Manufacturers and Project Developers. Every wind turbine is different despite seemingly similar power ratings.
10. Secure Agreement to Meet O&M needs. Wind turbine technology has made great strides in the recent years.

The "energy payback time" is a term used to measure the net energy value of a wind turbine or other power plant-i.e., How long does the plant have to operate to generate the amount of electricity that was required for its manufacture and construction? A wind turbine typically takes on a few months (3-8 depending on the average wind speed at its site) to "pay back" the energy needed for its fabrication, installation, operation, and retirement. The Road Ahead – Steps to be taken. Organization. Funding. Timeframe The area will have to be studied for approximately a year or two to make sure there is sufficient wind. If there isn't enough wind, then the project could not go forward. We are in an area between a two and three is which is about the minimum wind that is needed. The cost for the feasibility is in the neighborhood of \$70,000. That includes the set up the siting, the meteorological data gathering, the interpretation of that and also path of tree flagging and it gets more technical after that. One turbine costs approximately \$1 million dollars. Payback in this investment is about 6-8 months. We are talking about having 30 turbines.

We would like the town Board to consider this feasibility study and if it is in our town's interest to take the lead on getting the helping to get the funding. The Board would need

to commitment that we would give our support to go forward with this and get the appropriate agencies to set up the feasibility study. The land we are looking at is very low list of reusable land. The county owns this land and it would be up to the County to give us this land. This land is in the Town of Romulus (60%). The Board will form a committee to explore the possibilities. Supervisor Kaiser will look into this situation.

Communications to be filed: See Attached.

- a. Seneca County Rabies Clinic – Saturday, January 29, 2005 @County Highway Department from 10:00 AM through 11:00 AM.
- b. Romulus Town Court will not hold court on February 9th, 2005.
- c. Association of Towns Annual Conference in New York City.

Code Enforcement Officer – See Attached.

- a. Monthly Report
- b. Annual Report

There is one complaint about the Trailer Park as you approach Romulus on the right hand side, the trailer on the end as you first pull in, the neighbors are complaining about it looking like a junk yard. There are 3 cars with no licenses, piles of tires stacked up along the back of house. Mr. Hoagland will check into it. The old barber shop on Main Street is for sale and kids are going into the back where they only have plywood and smoking among other things.

Planning Board' Report – See Attached.

a. Meeting date has been changed to the first Monday of every month @7:00 PM David Hayes has been elected Chairman of the Planning Board to take Walter Mittermeyer's place and Barry Roach has been elected Vice Chairman and Daniel Brodnicki as Agricultural Co-ordinator. The Planning Board in the coming year will be looking into property maintenance and wants some input from the Town Board on what parts of the New York State Code do you want to see or any input that the Town Board might have towards the addition to the Zoning of that. We also need some insurance by the Board that whoever enforces these codes is going to get enforced. When a problem comes up by a resident, then we can do something and have the teeth to do it. It might be just a question of how we enforce it.

We would also like to welcome Phyllis Motill.

Zoning Board of Appeals

a. Meeting date will remain as the second Thursday of every month @7:00 PM We have 2 new members. We would like to welcome Mr. Bloss and Fred Swain.

Highway Superintendent's Report – See Attached.

Superintendent Williamson called the Company regarding his new pickup today and their projected delivery date is Tuesday 1/25/2005. We sent the 98 Mack up to Rochester to have the weight controls changed over to air over hydraulic. We had a lot of problems with it the first three days and ended up taking it back. They had to replace a few of the parts but they stood behind their original quote and there are no additional charges. The plow is ready for the snow that is coming. Jay Dey is the new part timers and Tom

Bennett from Romulus has volunteered to help when needed. Highway agreement is attached.

Dog Control Officer's Report - No activity this month.

Tax Collector's Report – See Attached.

Judge's Annual Report – See Attached

Assessor's Report – See Attached

The report says that the Town of Romulus has qualified for the New York State Office of Real Property Services Excellence in Equity Award. This Award is granted to municipalities that are receiving State Aid for Conducting reassessments at 100 percent of market value. Your municipality and your assessor are to be commended for providing fair assessments and meeting high standards for assessment administration.

Water Commissioner's Report – See Attached

a. Water Conference Request – Club 86 2/3/05.

Everything has been working very well and we have had no emergencies. The only thing I haven't done is pick up the pumps down in Varick as they are frozen in the ground. After checking with the company, they were shipped out dry so there is nothing in the pumps that will be harmed in anyway. Commissioner Holley talked with Brian Conklin about the stumps at the end of Prospect Street and Mr. Conklin said he didn't know when he would be available with his crews. There was a bill submitted to the Town of Romulus for a generator and it was a mistake. We notified Witmer's that this was not our generator that it belonged to Varick. They will bill Varick and credit us.

Bookkeeper's Report – See Attached.

The town books are all balanced to date. Copies of the trail balance have been given to all Board Members, James Williamson, Kathleen Greule and Jack Holley. The books have been finalized and closed out.

Supervisor's Report – I would like to bring up that this past Friday 1/14/05, Councilman Walborn, Jr. and Councilwoman McCall and myself all attended the opening for Hillside Children's Center that took over from Kids Peace. Senator Nozzolio was present and he presented Hillside Children's Center with a check for \$350,000.00 which was very much needed. We stayed for lunch and had a tour. We were very much impressed. It appears to be a little more homey. Attorney Getman said that since Hillside Children's Center has taken over, they have had zero problems with the children. They have them doing something from the time they get up in the morning till the time they go to bed at night. They keep them very busy and on the go. They do not have time to get into trouble or to cause trouble.

Congratulations to David Hayes as Chairman of the Planning Board and Barry Roach as Vice Chairman.

a. State of the Town Address – See Attached.

Some of the highlights from that address are: In 2004 credit was given to the Town Board for restoring the election districts to three and operational for this past presidential election.

The NYS Troopers satellite office as relocated to a new facility on the former Depot property in our town .

We now have a “Neighborhood Watch” program under development.

Thanks to some dedicated residents in the Town of Romulus, we now have an historical society on the grounds of WDTC in the old Engineer’s House.

Several computers and our server took a beating and one had to be replaced .

Out “Records Management Grant” converted our town records to micro fiche.

Due to an increase in retirement contributions, we were able to head off any great impact on our tax rate and were able to keep the budget increase at 3.8%.

The new County Jail will be in our Town. Ground breaking will be in April.

Supt. Williamson and I have met with Seneca Pipe and Paving to get the hamlet of Willard waterline and paving replacement plan underway.

Several problems have arisen with hookups on the Eastlake Road but we are continuing to assist the Town of Varick to solve these issues.

Town of Romulus Board got underway the project of addressing speedlimits and zones in the Hamlet of Romulus.

Street Lights have been installed on First Street Extension in Willard.

In the New Year, I want a 5 year plan put in place to replace waterlines and pavement in the hamlet of Willard.

I would like to see a Softball field at Heron Park.

Successful Hookup of our residents on Eastlake Road to Varick Sewer.

Town Board to develop some kind of plan or schedule for equipment replacement.

Resurrect the Rt. 89 water project.

Committee Reports

Committee Assignment Goals for 2005 – See Attached

Additional Committee not on list – **Highway Committee (Ritchie-Walborn-Gerlach)**
Replacement Plan for Equipment.

Old Business: - See Attached

- a. South Seneca Ambulance Contract

Councilwoman Barbara McCall has a problem with #6 where they agree to conduct financial accounting procedures in a responsible manner. #4 They agree to hold quarterly meetings with representatives of the Towns of Ovid, Lodi, Romulus, Covert and Varick.

- b. Shut off water accounts after 45 days delinquent unless prior arrangements have been made.

Bill Bowen is asking Supervisor Kaiser about the situation on Eastlake Rd. He spoke to Mr. Hayssen and he was not much help. Mr. Bowen talked to Mr. Zajac and he thought they had an agreement with Mr. Hayssen that they would be having services at the same rate as the other individuals in the Town of Varick. The seven residents who are going to be hooked up to that sewer line are considered out of Varick users and they are going to be charged a rate and ½ for water. The town of Varick has agree to buy the grinder pumps for their residents. It has always been a policy with the Town of Romulus, that the Town of Romulus resident always buys his pump. The Town of Romulus has bought those pumps for the Residents of the Town of Romulus to save them money and they

have agreed to pay us back for these pumps. The Town of Varick for the last 7 years has been billing our residents debt service on those hookups for water. We don't believe at this time it is proper. Now there are some complicated issues involved about hooking up these sewer customers that are being worked at behind the scenes.

Secondly, Mr. Bowen said that George Dickens Houses are still standing. Nothing has been heard about them recently. Supervisor Kaiser will get on that problem first thing in the morning.

Councilman Gerlach has asked who was responsible for the sink hole in from on the Church in Willard? It seems that the County Highway Dept. has patched the opposite side of the street instead of the one that was requested to be patched. Supervisor Kaiser will go down and see exactly what was done and what needs to be done and take care of it.

New Business

- a. Presentation of the Town of Romulus Seal.
- b. Welcome new planning board member, Phyllis Motill.

Resolutions:

No Certified Letter required for Shut off Notice

Resolution #7-05

Pulled – Further action to be taken after checking into it.

Tax Collector's Books

Resolution #8-05

Motioned: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

Town Clerk's Books and Reports

Resolution #9-05

Motioned: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

Supervisor's Books

Resolution #10-05

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously

Judge's Books

Resolution #11-05

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Carried Unanimously

Verification of Payables

Resolution #12-05

Motioned: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

Authorize Water Dept. Employees to Attend Conference

Resolution #13-05

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Appointment of Planning Board Member

Resolution #14-05

Motioned: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Seconded: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Carried Unanimously

Authorize Supervisor to Sign Ambulance Contract

Resolution #15-05

Resolution Pulled by Board Will check into it further.

Agreed to the Edits on the Town of Romulus Seal

Resolution #16-05

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Carried Unanimously

Town Clerk's Report – See Attached

a. Annual Report – See Attached

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously

The Town Board Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Motioned: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Seconded: Councilman S. William Ritchie

Carried Unanimously