

**Regular Town Board Meeting  
May 16, 2007**

Supervisor David Kaiser called Town Board Meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

<b>Roll Call</b>	Supervisor David Kaiser	Present
	Councilman Robert Gerlach	Present
	Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.	Absent
	Councilwoman Barbara McCall	Present
	Councilman Kyle Collinsworth	Present

**Others Present:** Town Clerk, Terry Smith  
Code Enforcement Officer, David Hayes  
Water Commissioner, Jack Holley  
Planning Board Chairman, Barry Roach  
Ovid Gazette, Neil Chaffee  
Finger Lakes Times, Brian Lothridge  
Residents 6

**Pledge of Allegiance** – followed by moment of silence

**Public Hearing** – Establishing a street light district on the depot.

Supervisor Kaiser regarding the Street lighting on the Depot opened the Public Hearing at 7:32 PM. We went on a tour of the East side of the Depot and there are several buildings there that are being used by the County. There also is one being used by the water district and various other buildings. The IDA to request that we establish a light district and those various customers would then be billed for their own electric approached us one month ago. Attached is a sheet with the individual cost for each customer and the town would only be a pass through so to speak. The town is not liable for the upkeep or the billing or the electrical use of these users. The town would only be a collection agency or bank. Hearing no questions, a motion was made by Councilman Robert Gerlach to adjourn the Public Hearing meeting.

Seconded: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing was closed at 7:35 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** April 26, 2007 – Regular Town Board Meeting

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously

**Petitioners to the Board:**

a. Paul Griswold, President of the Trumansburg Home Telephone Company presented a slide show on the future of the telephone company. The phone company has taken over what was called the “Q” area of the Seneca Army Depot, which is under construction started by the phone company 3 weeks ago. Mr. Griswold pointed out that the company is 100 years old and expanding rapidly. The phone company services

approximately 11,500 customers. They service 5 counties and six different cities. The last 2 years have been spent working on their optical network. The only way the company could grow was to build more Fiber. They embarked on a 100-mile Fiber Plan in 2006. The Fiber Plan currently runs from Clifton Springs all the way to Ithaca, Cornell, and the Agricultural & Experimental Station in Geneva now have the Fiber built in them. In a few weeks this Fiber Plan will reach Rochester.

We have built an access road to the “Q” area without bothering Hillside Children’s Center. We will be moving 8 people to that location starting in July 2007. We will be moving our line trucks, outside plant cable trucks, pulls, and cable to this location. We are looking to sell the barns only in Trumansburg. We are starting to lease out the bunkers to people in the area. There are 519 bunkers total but we are right now only interested in 64 of them. This area is very important to us because it is triple fenced. This was the most secured area on the base. We are reconditioning the guard house and it will be locked down all the time so that people cannot come in there unless they have access to us through a guard that will be standing in the guard house. The warehouse will be used for our truck, cables etc. The money that is being spent is from Senator Nozzolio who gave us \$250,000.00. The power is now on in the warehouse. We are going to start to sell these 64 bunkers with the cages in front, to people who want to put their servers or backup or any kind of paper files that they want to store in a secure area. They will have the Fiber Plan and will be accessible to banks who want to be secure and be able to reach anywhere in New York State. We have Cornell and some banks looking at these bunkers. We have 2 right now that we think we have sold but no papers have been signed yet. The projection for hiring in the next year would be approximately 30 people and that is a conservative guess.

b. Kate Sinicropi, Romulus Planning Board Member, addressed the Board members regarding outdoor wood burning furnaces. Mrs. Sinicropi is here representing the rest of the Planning Board. She passed out some paper work regarding the subject. (Attached). The definition of Outdoor Wood Burning Boiler is: a freestanding combustion unit located outside the home or structure to be heated that consists of a firebox surrounded by a water reservoir. Water is heated, and then circulated throughout the home, barn or other structure. OWB’S are designed to accommodate large wood loads that can burn for many hours. When thermostat temp is reached, oxygen to the fire is cut off and wood smolders. The chimney is very small and what you will see in some of the regulations is that some towns have adopted restrictions where they are requiring that the chimneys be taller which impacts the amount of smoke that is disseminated. They are very popular right now because of the rising cost of oil and gas. One of the problems with them is they are terrible polluters. Smoke and improper use has sparked interest in regulatory options. At this time, there are no NYS regulations or Federal regulations. It is similar to what happened to wood burning stoves when they first came out. Operation of these means that there is smoldering wood and lingering smokes in the area particularly if there isn’t any wind. The smoke smells and carries pollutants. They are not covered by EPA emission standards. Smoke is released from short chimneys. There are DEC regulations that are applicable. Many people believe the stoves are health hazards and polluters. There are some other options. There is County regulations and Local regulatory options. There are many things we can regulate through a local law. Some have set back requirements and chimney

requirements. Some places just outright ban these wood stoves. There are a number of towns and villages that have already gone ahead through their local laws have limited the months of operation. They are usually through the summer months. Some have already prohibited them. Some even require a permit for installation and operation and some have put restrictions on materials to be burned. Mrs. Sinicropi feels that this is something very important to be looking to limit. Planning Board Chairman, Barry Roach, felt that this should be brought to the attention of the Town board and that this issue deserves a larger audience such as the Board of Supervisors. We live in an agricultural county with some significantly large agricultural areas. In these days of climate change, these stoves are terrible.

Supervisor David Kaiser agreed that the issue should be reviewed at the county level and suggested the Planning board get together with other planning boards in the county and give a joint presentation to the Board of Supervisors. The first thing to do according to Chairman Roach is to declare a moratorium on these stoves until the Board can get its act together and then come to the Town Supervisor with a recommendation. Supervisor Kaiser would like to see something done in a united county effort. Chairman Roach and Mrs. Sinicropi have been asked to pursue networking with other county boards and come up with a plan to present to the county Board at the committee level.

**Communications to be filed:** None

**Zoning Code Enforcement Officer:**

Permits have been issued

Several letters have been sent to residential properties in need of being addressed.

- i. 5899 Route 96A
- ii. 2652 County road 130
- iii. 7030 Route 96
- iv. 2997 Stout Road
- v. 6101 Route 414

**Planning Board's Report**

Minutes Attached These notes are the April 2007 notes. Meeting was last week and the minutes are not available yet. The board right now is dealing with a process and steps that are going to be available to the people who are seeking a variance. This will tell the people what they have to do and the steps they have to go through to achieve a variance. The final draft will be presented to the Town Board hopefully at the next meeting. Harriet Haynes gave us some suggestions. Placing of signs should be looked into.

**Zoning Board Report**

Minutes Attached: A second meeting was set of for the May 3, 2007 for Snedacre.

**Highway Superintendent's Report:**

Report attached.

### **Dog Control Officer's Report**

Report attached.

### **Water Commissioner's Report**

We have been really busy trying to get started for the season. I will comment that we have been working with the phone company down in the Q Area on the Depot getting ready to get their water turned on. We are having some issues with the drain lines in the building and some sewer lines. Way back when the government was turning over the Hillside, we had done some work down there and there were some problems with infiltration. They are doing their drain line cleaning and the phone company is doing a nice job rehabbing their buildings.

### **Assessor's Report**

NYS Office of Real Property – Residential Assessment Ratio attached.

### **Bookkeeper's Report**

Report Attached. Books are balanced to date.

### **Supervisor's Report**

Within the next couple of weeks we will be resuming work on our sidewalk project down in the Hamlet of Romulus. I have gotten quite a few phone calls from residents over the winter that appreciate the sidewalks. The Youths were using them and off the icy highway. People are appreciating the sidewalks. Also, one week ago this past Tuesday, May 10, 2007, the County Board of Supervisors met. We have designated June 15, 2007 as Elder Abuse Awareness Day. This is a problem in large like Child Abuse. It goes unreported and unknown to the community. It is more serious behind the scenes than the general public knows.

May 19, 2007 has been designated as Armed Forces Day. This is to honor our men and women in uniform for all that they have done and all that they are doing now.

The County Health Department has received a grant in the amount of \$23,548.00 for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Program. This program has been very successful in this county and is funded in large part by state grants. We were notified that we received this grant again this year.

The county has decided to separate the positions of the IDA Director and the Director of Development and Planning. One gentleman had previously done this job and the work is more for two people. The County Board of Supervisors has decided that they should be separated. They will be developing a plan in cooperation with the County IDA.

Also, the County in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce in Seneca County Tourism Advisory Board will develop a comprehensive plan involving the County Tourism. We have a target date set of December 31, 2007.

The Board of Supervisors has extended the collection of the additional one percent sale tax. This greatly helps us to offset our County tax.

The Village of Waterloo at the last minute canceled the meeting scheduled on May 11, 2007 for the water intakes that the County Water District would like to

have opened. We hope it will be rescheduled soon. I am also asking the Board to approve me to attend a one-day seminar in Buffalo for managers.

**Committees Report:**

Hernon Park meeting will be on Monday May 21, 2007 at 9:00 AM.

Remind all students that the scholarship deadline is May 18, 2007.

The Block Party meeting will be held on Monday, May 21, 2007 at 6:00 PM.

Minutes are attached. We are still looking for a tee shirt design for the upcoming Block Party on August 11, 2007 at Hernon Park.

Romulus Historical Society

Minutes attached. There is a grant being put out for Historical Societies by the History Channel.

**Old Business** Mr. Bowen spoke to the Board about opening the Seasonal Beaujon Road in the Wintertime and maintaining same. He stated, "Once there are residents on that road it must be maintained". It is up to the Highway Superintendent to determine what is seasonal road and present it to the Town Board at least one month in advance. Supervisor Kaiser asked Mr. Bowen to share this with the Highway Superintendent and have the Highway Superintendent contact our Town Attorney.

**New Business:** None

**Resolutions:**

#41-07 Authorize the Establishment of New Street Lighting District

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously

#42-07 Verification of Payables

Motioned: Councilwoman Barbara McCall

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously

#43-07 Authorize Supervisor to Attend Seminar

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously

#44-07 Board of Assessment Review Appointment

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Ralph Walborn, Jr.

Carried Unanimously

**Town Clerks Report** – Monthly Report Attached.

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Motioned: Councilman Robert Gerlach

Seconded: Councilman Kyle Collinsworth

Carried Unanimously