

Water issues raised

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undetected leaks, overflows, lack of maintenance – especially with generators – and water pressure. He said these are potential health and safety problems that need to be addressed.

JENSEN, A FORMER Fayette town supervisor and a farmer, added his two cents although not affected by Seneca County Water District #1. He said he was concerned about “misuse of employees, ineffective use of labor, mismanagement and differing water rates.”

He added “people, good people who take pride in their job, are degraded by petty comments of wanting to be a ‘water czar’ or wanting to be supervisor ... when all they want is to perform their job to the best of their ability and take pride in the quality of their work. Some of them, fear for their jobs.”

He continued, “We have given you a ton of material. Take it home, study it and come back ready to appoint a group to recommend some changes.”

That was the net sum of the presentation. Jeff Trout recommended the board stop blaming Jason McCormick (former county engineer) and Mitch Rowe (former county manager) for district problems; appoint a temporary, independent, non-political interim water & sewer director; establish an ethics panel; conduct exit interviews starting with McCormick and Rowe; and work with the CSEA on an employee climate survey to deal with fear and intimidation issues. He also suggested getting the state comptroller to audit the district.

ROMULUS SUPERVISOR DAVID Kaiser, chair of the supervisors’ public works committee, agreed politics should be taken out of the equation, but said this was just one side of the story. He said his committee will get district staff input and answers to the presentation. He said the committee needs to know whether the problems outlined were specific or systemic. “We have to hear from staff,” he said.

Kaiser did add a possibility was to seriously consider creating a water authority to “take the towns and politics out of the equation.”

Varick Supervisor and Board Chair Robert Hayssen – often the butt of the criticism in the presentation – didn’t comment directly, but did say afterwards much of the pre-

sentation included comments taken out of context and some of the data was incomplete and/or inaccurate.

ANOTHER ISSUE that always sparks interest on the board is Indian affairs. Committee Chair Robert Shipley of Waterloo reported on interaction with the Indian affairs committee of the New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) meeting, saying he was disappointed in how NYSAC skirted around Indian issues.

A local contingent met with Nozzolio and Assemblymen Brian Kolb and Phil Palmesano separately to reinforce their role in leadership and support in the state Legislature.

They pointed out the state has an agreement with Madison and Oneida counties to reimburse money lost through the Oneidas refusal to pay property taxes. They asked Nozzolio, Kolb and Palmesano to jointly ask Governor Andrew Cuomo to include similar monies in the state budget for 2014-15 to compensate Seneca County for its losses.

“It looks like we have to take the lead [in Indian affairs],” said Shipley.

ON ANOTHER FRONT, the local contingent asked for a status update from the state legislators on the county’s request for moving from Department of Transportation (DOT) District 3 out of Syracuse to District 4 out of Rochester to better align the county with projects fostered by the Genesee Transportation Council and New York State Economic Development Corporation-Finger Lakes Regional Office. By resolution, the county board made the request for the switch in 2011, with thus far no action – save a meeting with Nozzolio and DOT Commissioner Joan McDonald in 2012.

Shipley said it was important to keep the dialogue going. “We prefaced our need to bring this request back to the table given our focused efforts for sewer expansion along the 318/414 corridors and also the proposed Wilmont Casino Destination Resort to be located in the Town of Tyre.”

Shipley later asked for a board resolution for a followup letter confirming the two issues and reiterating the importance to Seneca County and the critical need for action by the Legislature and the governor. The resolution was approved by the full board.



Community organizations donate to Seneca County families

The Seneca County Division of Human Services (DHS) recognizes the following community organizations and individuals for their donations to assist needy families this holiday season: Seneca Meadows, Marilyn Aldrich, Judy Chapelsky, Walmart, Gould’s Pumps, Seneca County Probation, Seneca County Family Court, American Legion in Ovid, American Legion in Seneca Falls, VFW in Seneca Falls and the American Legion Auxiliary Seneca Falls. More than 20 families were identified by DHS caseworkers and donations were used to supplement dinner and gifts for the children. Pictured is Mark Benjamin of Seneca Meadows presenting Charles Schillaci, commissioner of human services, and child protective workers with a check toward this initiative.

SFMS takes Drug Quiz title

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SENECA FALLS WAS represented by Ben McDonald, captain, Eliza Ganzon, Noah Howard, Jordan Howell, Hannah Lang, Heidi Miller and IE Tewari. Advisors were Mary Lou Lang and Rob Ritter.

Waterloo’s team consisted of Captain Jarrad Wakefield, Makayla Brown, Tori Greenfield, Tim Hall, Ashley Ross and Ethan Wagner. Peer coaches were MacKenzie Kapp, Karissa Lichter, Calista Lowry and Nicholas Wagner. Advisors were Lisa Andino, Kathleen Bremer and School Resource Officer Rod Kraft.

The Romulus squad was led by Captain Emma Voorhees, Stephan Alicea, Danielle Goerlich, Kerri Hudson, Carolyn Jes-sop, Leanna Lerkins and Desiree Reyes. Jennifer Bartlett was the advisor.

South Seneca’s team included Captain Charlie VanNess, Chamberlain Bauder, Skylar Dawson, John Relyea, Emma Seamon, Maddie Welch and Kelly Williamson. Advisors were Donna Mosher and Terri Stawasz.

JUSTICE KATHY JANS-DUFFY of Tyre and Undersheriff Gary Sullivan were moderators for the competition, with Lieutenant John Cleere and Investigator John Kipp Goodman of the Seneca County Sheriff’s Department, Waterloo Police Chief Doyle Marquart, Seneca Falls Police Chief Stuart Peenstra, Megan Langley and Deb Rogers of the Town of Seneca Falls Court, Judy Brignall of the Town of Fayette Court, Mike Bellone of the Trac Team, Cindy Park-Sheils of the Waterloo Historical Society, Fran Barbieri of the Seneca Falls Historical Society,

Dede Olufson of United Way’s 0-8 Committee, Katie Nelson of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Jeanna Buisch and Billie Lohr of the Council on Alcoholism and Addictions of the Finger Lakes and community members Lori Breese and John Duffy serving as volunteer support.

Contributors included Cornell Cooperative Extension, Mark’s Pizzeria, National Guard, Seneca County United Way, Seneca County Youth Bureau, Seneca Falls PBA, Seneca Office Products, Stop DWI, Substance Abuse Coalition, TOPS, Trac Team, Waterloo PBA and Waterloo Rite Aid Drug Store.

Board committees at work

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS – Responsible for county clerk, board of elections, courts, central services, records management, county rules and order of business, legislative proposals and reviews, county historian, county manager, clerk of the board, supervisors’ expenses, purchasing, County Law Department and Weights & Measures.

Gary Westfall of Waterloo, chair; Ronald McGreevy of Tyre, vice-chair; and Walt Prouty of Ovid, Michael Reynolds of Covert and Don Earle of Seneca Falls.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Readers are encouraged to express their views. Letters should be short and to the point, preferably no longer than 250 words. Preference will be given to letters that pertain to local issues. Only signed letters will be considered and no form or fund-raising letters will be published.

CALENDAR ITEMS

All items for Bits ‘n Pieces must be received at the *Reveille/Between the Lakes* office no later than two weeks prior to the event. Bits ‘n Pieces is designed to bring activities of interest to the attention of area residents. Items should be submitted in writing or by e-mail and must include the sender’s name and complete phone number. It should include what the event is, where and the time(s) it will be held, costs (if any), registration information (if applicable) and a contact person and daytime phone number or address for more information.

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