

**Genoa Comprehensive Planning Group Notes**  
**Monday 10 August 2009**

Present: Maria Bachich, Dave Baildon Jr., John Berry, Peggy Bradley, Mark Conner, Ralph Nettleton, Anto Parseghian, Dan Thayer, Susan Tosto, Karin Wikoff.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Due to a question regarding suggested changes to the draft notes which were editorial rather than corrections of fact, the approval of the notes will be tabled until next meeting.

2. **Mark Conner from the Genoa-King Ferry Water District:** Mark Conner gave the committee an extensive run-down of facts pertaining to the Genoa-King Ferry water district. Notes below are roughly in the order presented.

--The system is old, dating from 1964, with mostly 6 inch to 8" asbestos-lined concrete or iron pipes.

--There is a risk of the pipes failing, particularly at road and creek crossing, such as happened at Bradley St and at the bottom of the hill. So far, they are holding up well considering their age and the water pressure in some areas.

--The pressure on the system is about 175 pounds by the firehouse, while it is lower uphill, being about 30-40 pounds by the Town Hall.

--The system runs along Route 90 from 34 in Genoa west to the May Farm on Clearview Rd in King Ferry. From the intersection of 34B and Route 90 in King Ferry, it runs north to Fessenden's Dairy, and south to Barger's farm. From the intersection of 34 and Route 90 in Genoa, it runs north to DeForrest's on 34.

--In order to expand, we would need to find a second source, either another well site or hook or pay to hook on to Bolton Point coming up from Lansing.

--There are 4 wells on the well site on the Maple St Extension. Three can operate up to 150 gallons/minute, while the fourth can operate up to 100 gallons/minute. They average about 36 feet deep, so they are relatively shallow wells. The pumps are centrifugal except the small one, which is operated manually.

--We have 2 water towers: one holds 238,000 gallons and the other holds 138,000 gallons. They fill at night using the night rate. The small pump helps keep the towers full.

--The Health Department sets the guidelines to quality of water. Tests occur at regular intervals – some every year, some every 3 years, some every 5 years while some are monthly or other intervals. The system is tested both before and after water treatment. Every customer receives an annual report on water testing results. We have never even been close to the limits, much less over. Temperature and other tests check for direct flow and the influence of the creek. Our water is naturally filtrated.

--Treatment consists of chlorine only. The water has natural fluoride so the Water District has never been asked for fluoridation.

--The Water District serves approximately 900 people with 290 service connections.

--10-12 years ago there was talk of hooking on to Bolton Point, and there have been rumors of hooking on to Fleming. Regardless of which hook-up plan were to be implemented, the cost would be on-going, not just the cost of building. Using surface water from the lake is too expensive, as the Health Department regulations are much tougher, more complex and the water

requires a good deal more kinds of treatment. Aurora has been deemed too old, too far and too expensive (surface water) to be a feasible option. The best possibility for expansion is to find another well site. Pine Hollow/Locke Woods on the far east side of the Town has been considered, particularly because it never dries up.

--The fourth (small) well was installed during the drought of 1988-90.

--Question from the floor: What percentage of the water is used by CAFOs? Apparently this amount is not known, but with fewer than 1,000 residents served, we used 61,000 gallons on 9 August, and the most we have ever used in a single day was 147,000, all of which is well under our top capacity. Using very rough math, we average 60-70 gallons per hook-up per day.

--There is a monthly Water Report given at each Town Board Meeting (First Monday of the month at 7 PM at the Town Hall) with more details and an opportunity to ask questions.

--Currently the Town is paying for legal assistance to re-do the Water District, as it has some sticky and irregular features which initially went in as private deals between individuals, some of whom no longer live here, entirely legal at the time, but now a bit of a legal mess. The water system should mirror the electric/power system, and the hope is that the legal folks can get it all sorted out.

--The Health Department is pressing the Town to have a secondary source of water in the event that the existing wells are compromised and not able to provide water. For example, they want to know: "What would we do if something happened to a dyke holding back a manure pond?" Our current emergency plan involves trucking water from Bolton Point and Union Springs. We do also have a 5-year-old propane generator as a back-up.

--There is a fear of existing wells going out of compliance, though the Health Department is understanding about communities with fewer than 3,300 people.

--Mark was not able to answer questions about the financial side of the Water District beyond saying that it is self-supporting; he referred any questions of that nature to Brenda Tyrrell.

--Frank Sellen, the Highway Superintendent, has almost completed his certification and will soon be Mark's back-up.

--We currently have only blueprints to lay out where the water system goes – they are hard to read. The Water District is working on a new map. Peggy will ask at the next Town Board Meeting for a rough idea of when that map may be done.

When asked about his concerns for the future of the water system, Mark indicated that his biggest concern is the age of the system. It is 45 years old and will need replacing before long, and we need a second source. Currently, either of these (replacement or second source) would be more than the Town could afford. One specific concern is the amount of pressure on the old pipes. Newer materials include poly materials which require no joints, which means the joints can't fail. If he had a wish list, he'd like to have the controls (ca 1969) replaced, then a gradual replacement of the pipes each year. However, the expenses for putting in a new system are more in the labor, permits and sampling/testing required by the Health Department before they let you turn the water on. Municipalities usually hire a firm to oversee the project and just sign off on it. There are grants available for small systems, but we would need to have a clear plan and a grant writer.

**3. Review of Action Items from Last Meeting:** The Committee reviewed the items on the agenda.

--**Grant Writing:** It was noted that we might be able to find a grant writer in the community, and someone suggested we try an ad in the newspaper.

--**Business Community:** Peggy has been working on a couple spreadsheets of businesses in Genoa, one from the Town website and one from the Community Market. She will merge the two lists and share them with the Committee.

--**Wheat Festival:** Our presence at the Wheat Festival was successful. There were a variety of opinions shared with us, five surveys were completed on the spot, and we were able to take down some comments:

- Senior housing is needed
- We should look back over previous censuses to see if we can find a trend or demographic shift in the average age of our residents
- Concerned about the lack of a local ambulance
- Kudos to the Town snow plows for doing such a good job this past winter
- Taxes are a big concern
- Better access to internet, cable TV and telephone is desired
- Bring water to more homes
- King Ferry Four Corners is a mess and needs attention
- One paragraph can guide laws; “preserve rural character” can stop Walmart
- The committee might take a bus tour around the Town to learn more

#### **4. New Business**

--**Next Two Major Areas:** Areas on which we are currently working include:

- Fire/Emergency Services
- Water
- Religious Community
- Businesses

Anto reports that his daughter, Kezia Parseghian, would be glad to present and discuss with us the ambulance service.

Maria reports that the Cayuga Watershed group has 2 interns working under the direction of the Water Steward who are looking for a water-related project in the area. We discussed an idea to ask them to do a survey, inventory and write-up for the Comprehensive Plan. Maria will broach the subject with the Watershed folks. She also noted that another local town has made a deal with a class of undergraduate students (in public policy?) at Cornell to write their plan for them.

Anto has met with some more folks from various churches, and has more meetings in the works.

As reported above, Peggy is helping us gather information on what businesses we have in our community.

**--Outreach:** Susan is working on an article for the Genoa-King Ferry Tribune and will have it ready for the September issue. She thinks she will be able to edit/adjust it to send to Kathleen Barren at The Citizen.

**--Public Meeting:** At some future point, we would like to present inventory information to the public and get feedback, but everyone was in agreement that we are not ready for that yet.

**--Additional:**

----Judy Wright from Farmland Trust can provide us facts and figures from the Farm Bureau.

----Wildlife (species present, for example) in Genoa should be part of our inventory

----Due to Columbus Day, we will need to reschedule our October meeting.

**5. Action Items:**

-- Peggy will ask at the next Town Board Meeting for a rough idea of when the new water district map may be done.

--Peggy will share the merged list of businesses in Genoa with committee members. (Done)

--Karin will add the new survey comments to the comments spreadsheet and share it with committee members.

--Maria will talk to the Cayuga Watershed folks about our project idea for their interns.

--Anto will meet with more members of the religious community.

--Susan will complete the article for the Tribune and submit it in time for the September issue.

--Dan will try to nail down someone from the Fire Departments to come talk with us.

--Karin will update the contact list and distribute it to the committee members.

**6. Next Meeting:** Monday 14 September 2009 7:00 PM Genoa Town Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Wikoff

Secretary, Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee