

Farm law draft gets support

By Paulette Likoudis / Finger Lakes Times | Posted: Friday, December 12, 2008 12:00 am

OVID — The town board didn't hesitate Wednesday night to support the final draft of grape grower Chris Verrill's proposed "Right to Farm Law."

Verrill, a planning board member who suggested such legislation several months ago, couldn't attend the board's meeting that night, so he missed hearing Supervisor David Dresser commend his and Town Attorney Steven Getman's efforts to protect local farmers' interests.

Dresser and board members had been contacted by numerous residents concerned that the original draft might leave a loophole for puppy mill operators. A paragraph in the new version specifically excludes protection for dog and cat operations and bars the law from being broadened to mean that.

The board will appoint a three-member Farmland Dispute Resolution Committee to mediate issues involving farmers. It will consist of a local farmer; a resident not associated with farming; and a resident and an alternate nominated jointly by the Seneca County Cornell Cooperative Extension executive director and the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation district manager.

There will be a public hearing on the Right to Farm Law at 7 p.m. Jan. 14. Dresser planned to have the law posted at www.townofovid.com within the next few weeks.

In other matters:

HIGHWAY — The board rescinded its approval for buying a 10-wheel truck from a company that's going out of business. At Superintendent Jack Wickham's recommendation, members voted to buy a 2008 International model, on state bid at \$176,476, using money that's been put aside for the purchase.

"The Town of Ovid is currently debt free, and we are doing all we can to keep it that way," Dresser said.

WINTERIZATION — Resident Bruce Craft reported that village employees helped him make improvements to the small basement-level space the town rents from the village in the former municipal building on Main Street. Openings have been sealed to conserve energy, and Craft recommended a programmable thermostat be used so the space is heated only when court is in session.

CIGARETTE TAXES — Dresser mentioned that the court had upheld the legality of the recent raid on Native American Indian stores and predicted there will be prosecution and possibly a suit to collect back taxes.

TRASH — Low bidder Fehrer Rubbish Removal Inc. was selected to provide refuse service for three years.

DOG CONTROL — Dresser announced with regret that Dog Control Officer Tracy Arcangeli is battling a serious form of cancer. Her husband, Dale, is deputy dog control officer and will be asked if he wants to assume full responsibility during her treatment.

HEALTH INSURANCE — 2009 Preferred Care rates are up 13.9 percent.

MEETINGS — Dec. 29 is the date of the final session to pay bills and close out 2008 business;

reorganization work will begin at 7 p.m. Jan. 14, and will include selecting a Planning Board member from among three applicants.

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