

September 4, 2007

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Joan Teichner at 7:05 p.m. Present at this meeting were Council Members Curt Karlsen, Richard Peterson, and Kathy Russo, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Attorney for the Town, John Sipos, Planning Board Chairman, Thomas Bjorkman, Seneca County Resource Management Specialist, Peter Brown, Finger Lakes Technologies Group, William Doran, Paul Griswold, and James Baure, and Town Historian, Charmion Dinsmore. Also present were Dorothy Hill, John Saeli, Bob Hayssen, Shannon Corcoran and Robert Whitley.

**Privilege of the Floor:** Dorothy Hill submitted a job application for the cleaning position at the Town Hall that will become available the beginning of October.

**Presenters:** Peter Brown addressed the board regarding the Restore New York Grant. He noted that Restore New York has redefined their application from last year and indicated that funding is being awarded for demolition and rehabilitation of properties that will increase economic value. He suggested submitting an application to assist monetarily in the repair of buildings and updating of electrical systems in the property owned by Finger Lakes Technologies Group. Paul Griswold, the CEO of Finger Lake Technologies Group, reviewed with the board some of the work that would be completed if grant funds were to be awarded. He will be meeting with Mr. Brown to define this work and provide further information for the application process to be completed. Mr. Brown indicated that the application fee was \$250. Restore New York would issue grant funds up to 90%, with the town responsible for the remaining 10%. A public hearing needs to be held, and once that is completed the board would need to pass a resolution to submit the application. He supplied a proposed motion to hold the public hearing giving a date and time for it to be held. The board changed this information in the following resolution.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to hold a public hearing before the Varick Town Board at the Varick Town Hall at 4782 Route 96, Romulus New York at 6:30 p.m. on September 17, 2007, at which time all interested parties will be heard on the proposal of the Town applying for Restore New York Grant funding to upgrade buildings located in the Conservation Area of the Seneca Army Depot.

Mrs. Teichner stated she had already emailed the sample resolution to be published as a legal notice to the Reveille, and will contact the Reveille with the date change and time.

Mr. Sipos raised the question of the use of the cable from Dresden that is run under the lake. It was noted that it is used for backup for substations only.

Mr. Bjorkman inquired about access to high speed internet that might be able to reach a 3 to 5 mile radius. Finger Lakes Technology is hoping to be able to offer this within the next two months.

**Supervisors Report:** Mrs. Teichner read her supervisor's report. A copy will be filed with these minutes.

**Bookkeeper's Report:** Deb Reed wrote a letter informing the board that she has been in contact with Doug Forgue from Sinicropi and Healy, LLP. According to her letter, Doug Forgue has informed her that everything that she has completed up to the last board meeting looked good. He suggested that she add the title of the account number above the number for reference. As of August 23 she has continued to enter the required information into the spreadsheets and has completed all of the accounts for the expenses with a few checks that she has not been able to locate yet and the revenues for all the accounts up to February 2006. She noted that she will continue to work on these and should be finished within the next week and a half.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to accept the bookkeeper's report.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried unanimously to approve amendment to the Town of Varick General Fund, Resolution No. 1.

After reviewing the Statement of Expenditures, Encumbrances & Appropriations it was noted that the Justice Expense Account and Joint Recreation Personal Services Account and Joint Recreation Expense Account were not correct. It was noted that according to this report some of the figures were altered in the 2007 budget and it was explained to Mrs. Teichner that the budget can't be altered without a resolution from the board.

Mrs. Teichner reported that the Recreational Program received \$1,400 in funding that should be added to the expense account to offset expenses.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to amend the A00-7145-400, Joint Rec. Contingency Expense \$1,400.

Roll Call:

Curt Karlsen	Yes
Kathy Russo	Yes
Richard Peterson	Yes
Joan Teichner	Yes

Mrs. Russo stated that 26 students registered for the Summer Recreation Program are residents of Varick and the average daily attendance of students from the surrounding townships was 30 to 40 students.

**Planning Board:** Mr. Bjorkman reported that the Planning Board is continuing its efforts in establishing a law pertaining to dangerous dogs by using the existing Ag and Market laws. They will also be adding new regulations that will allow the town court some leeway and each case to be assessed individually.

It was noted that Dr. Sherman would like to meet with Mr. Bjorkman to discuss the dog issue.

Mr. Whitley addressed the board and clarified that his dogs are licensed through the kennel clubs. He reiterated his request from August's meeting that the dog warden be asked to resign from his position. He was reminded that this request needs to be put in writing to the board. Mr. Whitley expressed his dissatisfaction with the response he received from Mrs. Teichner in a phone conversation and objected to the comments she made and the discriminatory way he felt she treated him.

Mr. Peterson does not want to implement anything based on a knee jerk reaction to one incident. He wants to make sure that the regulations are done correctly and each case may need to be looked at individually.

Mr. Bjorkman also handed out proposed revisions to the zoning code. He reviewed with the board the outline of these revisions and hopes that these revisions will be acted on within the next few months. The Planning Board would like to meet with the board members to review and get feedback on these revisions. It was suggested that an informational meeting be held prior to the public hearing. Mr. Bjorkman noted that he is trying to get a map made up of the zoned areas.

Mrs. Teichner reported that she placed Lisa Sadlik, Barbara Nearpass, Kathy Russo and Bob and Valeri Kayser on the moor and docking committee. It was suggested that Jeff Case be put on this committee as he is familiar with this subject and would be knowledgeable regarding the regulations.

**Zoning Report:** Robert Taylor provided a written report that will be filed with the minutes.

**Code Enforcement:** It was reported that Mr. Foxx wrote a letter to an East Lake Road resident asking them to clean up their property.

**Highway:** Mr. McCulloch reported that Town Line Road is open for use and the guardrails are up. He still has to complete the black top surface. The cost for the

guardrails was approximately \$7,000 and Mr. Peterson will submit the bills in hope of some state assistance for this project once he has received them all from Mr. McCulloch. Mr. McCulloch reported that he ordered the used guardrails from Chemung Supply Corporation as they would accept all liability.

Mr. McCulloch will be paving White Road and is waiting for confirmation from Seneca County of their assistance. He also indicated to Mrs. Teichner that his funds need to be replaced in appropriations from the cost of Town Line Road project in order to complete his paving work.

Mr. McCulloch reminded the board that when his pickup was purchased it was suggested that it be turned around every couple years. He noted that it is beginning to have maintenance issues and recommended that the board look at replacing it. The board discussed this and agreed that this should be looked into and directed Mr. McCulloch to get a price for replacement off of the state bid.

He also reminded the board that he would like to purchase a woodchipper.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried unanimously to have Richard McCulloch seek bids for a woodchipper for the highway department.

Mrs. Teichner noted that she would not reinvest any highway funds until she knew what money would be needed by the department.

The Fall Clean up is scheduled for September 19 through the 22. Joan will contact Seneca Meadow for the roll offs. She also stated she had contacted the newspaper to advertise the clean up.

Seneca Lake Water: Mrs. Teichner stated that she didn't feel there was any urgency in getting the hydrant bolts replaced. She will check to see if the replacement bolts have been received. A discussion was held as to whether these bolts should be replaced on all the hydrants at once as they will eventually need to be done or do them as needed. Mrs. Russo indicated that she is waiting for the information in order to publicize for bids. Mr. Karlsen will check with Damon Nicholson to see if he has listened to any of the hydrants for leaks.

Mrs. Teichner presented to the board a letter written by the Village of Waterloo to be mailed out with the billing that is scheduled to be sent the beginning of September. The board approved the letter with Varick Town Board's signature in place of Mrs. Teichner, Supervisor.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to send the letter prepared by the Village of Waterloo to Seneca Lake Water District and Varick Sewer District No 2 users with the Varick Town Board for the signature line.

Mrs. Teichner reported that she received the check due from the Town of Fayette without interest.

Mrs. Teichner reported that the Village of Waterloo suggested the meters at the town lines should be checked and calibrated. This will be completed.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Mrs. Teichner stated that the Scotts complained that they would every once and a while get a sewer odor when the wind comes from the East. The board is still waiting for approval for placement of the bioxide system.

**Personnel:** No report.

**Assessor's Report:** The board reviewed the written Assessor's report.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Assessor's Report.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 9 General, Vouchers 07-95 to 07-104 in the amount of \$2,683.23, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers 07-22 to 07-23 in the amount of \$1,052.00, Highway, Vouchers 07-63 to 07-70 in the amount of \$23,799.09, and Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers 07-39 to 07-40 in the amount of \$25,034.11

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Richard Peterson to approve the minutes of August 7, 2007.

Mrs. Teichner questioned Mr. Sipos if the dog issue could be a criminal case. Mr. Sipos stated that it could be.

Mr. Karlsen requested the board members be given a copy of the bookkeeper's job description that Mrs. Teichner prepared. Mrs. Teichner will provide this to them.

Mrs. Russo felt that the minutes she prepared for the June 12 meeting should have been accepted with corrections to them rather than approving the minutes Mrs. Karlsen submitted. It was noted at the August meeting there were errors and important information left out in Mrs. Russo's minutes which is why they were not accepted. Mr.

Sipos stated that Mrs. Karlsen, as clerk, is responsible for submitting the minutes. Mrs. Teichner felt another person could take the minutes of the board if appointed by the board. Mrs. Russo stated she would not approve August minutes because she felt her minutes should have been corrected and accepted and she felt she had wasted her time. Mrs. Karlsen again thanked Mrs. Russo for her effort and for what information she provided.

Roll Call:

Joan Teichner	No
Curt Karlsen	Yes
Richard Peterson	Yes
Kathy Russo	No

The minutes were not approved at this time but will be presented again at the October meeting.

Mrs. Russo expressed how deeply offended she was with regards to what occurred during the executive session that was held at the end of August's meeting. Mrs. Teichner apologized to those who left last month for the executive session and felt that any executive session request will be approved by her in the future. Mr. Sipos stated that he has every right to ask the board for an executive session when it pertains to attorney/client privileges and entering into executive session can be approved by a board motion.

**New Business:** Mrs. Teichner has set a meeting with EFC September 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the Varick Town Hall regarding the Route 89 water. She canceled her meeting scheduled for September 26.

Mrs. Teichner suggested that Dorothy Hill be hired to clean the town hall beginning the first of October for two hours a week at a pay rate of \$7.50, which she stated was the suggested pay rate by the county. Mr. Karlsen noted that this job has always been given to a high school student and felt it should continue that way. A discussion took place regarding the rate of pay and Mrs. Teichner expressed that the rate of pay should be more than what the current cleaners have been paid as she is an adult. After further discussion the following motion was made.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to approve hiring Dorothy Hill for a three month trial period beginning October 1 to clean two hours a week at the current rate of pay.

Mr. Peterson addressed the issue of the newsletter that Mrs. Teichner mailed out. He noted that this was not to be sent without approval from the board and questioned Mrs. Teichner's timing and her use of "I" and not including the work done by this board. Mrs.

Teichner indicated she needed to get the newsletter out because of the Fall Clean up and didn't have time to get board approval. Mr. Hayssen questioned who paid for the newsletter. Mrs. Teichner noted that it was expensed from the town budget. It was also clarified that the newsletter is a Town of Varick newsletter, not a Supervisor's Newsletter.

A motion by Joan Teichner, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Karlsen  
Town Clerk