

September 2, 2008

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were Councilmen, Jeff Case, Richard Peterson and John Saeli, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Planning Board member, Kevin Swartley, and Finger Lakes Times reporter, Paulette Likoudis. Absent: Council member: Kathy Russo.

Highway: Mr. McCulloch reported that he has received some complaints regarding the railroad crossings being rough. He has contacted the railroad company regarding these complaints, but they have yet to respond. Although it is the railroads responsibility to maintain these crossings, he will review the situation to see if there is anything the highway department can do to improve the conditions. Mr. Hayssen will contact the IDA director regarding the condition of the crossings.

Mr. McCulloch also reported that it is the State's responsibility to maintain intersections which intersect a state highway and town road. He noted that he tries not to expend town funds on repair of these intersections, and specifically noted Townline Road and Route 89, however, residents are not aware that the state are responsible for these repairs and it reflects poorly on the town. Mr. Saeli suggested a letter be written from the town board asking the state to maintain what they are responsible for.

The paperwork has been submitted for anticipated funding for the Fayette/Varick Townline Road culvert project.

Sealing of McGrane Road and Yale Farm is scheduled to begin the second week of September.

Mr. McCulloch reported that approximately 200 gallons of gas was stolen from the fuel tank that is located in the back of the town hall and a police report was done. Because security is an issue, the highway department has established an account with Seneca County for the town's fuel supply and will be removing the town's gas tank. Mr. McCulloch noted that the diesel fuel tank, due primarily to the set up, is not an issue at this point.

Planning Board: Mr. Swartley reported that their will be a public hearing on September 25 regarding a minor subdivision request by Snyders.

The board received resignations from Frankie Long as a Planning Board member and Miles Persing as Code Enforcement Officer.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to accept Frankie Long's resignation from the Planning Board.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to accept Miles Persing's resignation with the understanding that Mr. Persing will complete the applications started prior to his resignation date of September 2, 2008.

Thank you letters in recognition of services rendered will be sent to both parties.

Suggested names for the Planning Board vacancy were Shelly Pletcher, Linda Mastellar, and Paul Conroy. It was also suggested that Paul Conroy may be a good candidate for Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Hayssen will contact these people to see if they would be interested in serving.

The board discussed the annual salary for the Code Enforcement Officer and based on anticipated and completed revisions to the zoning code, determined it would be lowered to \$3,500 annually.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to reduce the annual salary of the code enforcement officer to \$3,500 plus mileage.

A written Code Enforcement Report was provided to the board for their review.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Nicholson submitted a written report for the boards review. He noted that he rebuilt pump number A200313. Yaws Environmental also submitted a written report attached to their voucher.

At the request of Mr. Hayssen, Mrs. Karlsen will provide a copy of the motion reducing the quarterly sewer rate to Peggy at the Village of Waterloo.

Mr. Case will follow up with Sarah Ryan from the Seneca County Health Department to see what is being done to get the remaining district residents who are not connected to this system connected.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. Nicholson submitted a written report which the board reviewed.

Cindy Steffen was on site at #5190 to try to find a water leak to no avail. There is minimal chlorine in the water that was tested and they are unsure as to where the chlorinated water is coming from.

Mr. Hayssen reported that there are some modules that need to be replaced on meters that read water usage.

The Village of Waterloo is continuing to monitor the operation of the meter located at Kennedy Road. Mr. Hayssen had the Town of Romulus do a comparison of the meter readings at the Kennedy Road location, Romulus' mag meter and the readings taken by the Village of Waterloo at the main pump station. The Town of Romulus also reviewed the billing to Seneca County Water and Sewer. It was determined that some of the

discrepancy in the water usage readings is due to the difference in time the readings were recorded. It was also noted that there are three homes past the Kennedy Road meter whose water usage is not being picked up by the Kennedy Road meter and could be read individually at the time of billing.

Mr. Hayssen received pricing from Total Control System Services to remove meter at Kennedy Road and send to Badger/Data Industrial, Tulsa, OK for calibration-repair at a cost of \$617.50. The second trip to reinstall would cost \$448.75. These prices do not include factory service and/or freight. It was noted that the water system would not need to be shut down to remove the meter.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to have Total Control System Services take out the Kennedy Road meter and have it looked at.

Mr. Hayssen will let the board know what Total Control discovers with this meter.

It was suggested that the town use the Town of Romulus' mag meter reading for billing purposes while our meter is being repaired. Mr. Hayssen will look into this.

It was reported that the cost of a mag meter uninstalled would be approximately \$4,400 to \$4,800. This meter would require electricity which could be accessed by a nearby electric pole. It was noted that a solar panel is not a possibility.

Mr. Hayssen will question O'Brien & Gere as to what they are doing with the Roth valve in Romulus.

Seneca Lake Water and Varick Sewer District No. 2 proposed maintainer position:

The board worked on developing a job description for the water and sewer maintainer and discussed different options. Contractual versus a salaried employee was discussed. Mr. Peterson suggested that the position be bid with a flat rate, on a contractual basis. He also questioned the water truck usage and maintenance and suggested that the district may not need the truck depending on what the job requirements stipulate. Mr. Case noted that the board would consider low bids but would need to recognize bids that are lower than the job realistically could be done for. Mr. Swartley suggested asking for flat rates for different service items. Some service items suggested were: 1. Rate per call out 2. Repair of pumps 3. Attend board meetings 4. Mileage: outside of district charge, no charge for in-district. 5. Maintenance of sewage pump station. 6. Generator maintenance. It was suggested that they look at a one year contract and the percentage of contractual cost would need to be figured between the water and sewer district. Mr. Case will try to write something up and the board will review it at the October board meeting.

Route 89 Water District: Jason McCormick dropped off a written project update and map. He revised the EDU determination to reflect the same tabulation process as the

previous report and attached a summary sheet comparing the two different determination methods. Mr. Hayssen will review the units and map provided.

Romulus/Varick Water & Sewer District: Mr. Peterson questioned if the generators owned by the Town of Varick for use in this district are still being maintained by the Town of Romulus as was agreed. This will be looked into.

Bill Roach who lives in the hamlet of Romulus has a sewer pump station next to his home and said that it is emitting a sewer odor. It was also reported that he never connected to the sewer system, put is still using leach lines that were supposedly approved by the Seneca County Health Department. Sarah Ryan from the Health Department will be contacted to see if Mr. Roach's septic system was approved and question why he wasn't made to connect to the existing sewer system.

Fayette/Varick Water District: Mr. Saeli reported that he didn't realize how bad the water was in the hamlet until he received a call from a resident who reviewed their water situation with him.

Mr. Hayssen reviewed the discrepancy in the unit charge which was publicized in a legal notice by the Town of Fayette. Another permissive referendum will be held. It was also reported that the project may be completed in stages and Mr. Hayssen asked that the map, plan and report be revised to include the town hall. A discussion was also held regarding the inclusion of 9/10 of a mile of Ridge Road and the cost to the project.

Assessor: Mr. Case reported that there will be a meeting next Monday and no written report was supplied by the assessor for the month of August.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Revenue to Supervisor: \$116.99, County Treasurer: \$64.27, State Ag & Markets: \$42.00, Department of Environmental Conservation: \$158.74, Total Disbursed: \$382.00

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to approve the Supervisor's report.

Mr. Hayssen reported that we received two bills from Bonadio in the amount of \$5,000 and \$6,000 with an additional finance charge of \$75.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve payment to Bonadio, less the finance charge.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract 9, General, Vouchers A0008122 to A0008132 in the amount of \$7,990.62, Seneca Lake Water Vouchers SWS08045 to SWS08047 in the amount of \$29,514.92, Highway, Vouchers DA008056 to DA008063 in the amount of \$6,567.44,

Varick Sewer District No. 2 Vouchers SSS08023 to SSS08027 in the amount of \$9487.78.

Old Business, New Business and Correspondence:

Mrs. Karlsen read a letter from Barb Quinn, elementary principal from the Romulus Central School commending this year's summer recreation program.

Mr. Hayssen removed Mrs. Russo from the Justice audit committee and appointed Mr. Peterson in her place.

Jeff Case reported that the justice would like to hire security for the court a couple hours a week. Mr. Saeli suggested the use of a state trooper or sheriff but it was felt that they would not be available to provide this service on a weekly basis. Mr. Saeli will contact these entities regarding this request. Mr. Hayssen will contact the judge and consider his request for the 2009 budget.

Marcia Altimari would like the Romulus light district extended by one light to include her house for security purposes. She reported that her house numbers as well as other items are being taken from her property. Mr. Case informed those in attendance that the Varick Fire Department sells house numbers to anyone who wishes to buy them. Mr. Hayssen will contact NYSEG to see what the cost would be to install one more street light in this district.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the Seneca Lake Water District has a large sum of money in CDs and it was his feeling that the original intended use of this money was to extend water service. He would like the board to consider using some of this money to extend the water district up Yale Farm Road to the water tower and noted that the Village of Waterloo would be willing to assist in putting in water lines. He reviewed with the board suggested figures and accounting procedures that may accomplish this. It was noted that if debt service numbers were changed they would need to be discussed with the Town of Fayette. The board agreed to consider this option, but tabled any decision until there was a full board and the town attorney present to answer any questions. It was noted that if this were to take place, a decision would need to be made prior to completion of the 2009 budget.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson to strike his phrase in the July 1, 2008 minutes which is as follows: He also expressed his concern regarding Mr. Saeli's personal issues against Mr. Nicholson which are being brought into town business and may result in Mr. Nicholson terminating his contract with the sewer district.

Discussion: Mr. Case explained that after speaking to Mr. Saeli it would be best for everyone if we strike this phrase and that they both have come to a mutual agreement that both parties would relax a little.

Mr. Saeli asked that the following also be struck: "Mr. Saeli indicated that would not be an issue as he has someone who he feels would be willing to replace Mr. Nicholson."

Mr. Peterson clarified with Mr. Saeli and Mr. Case that what was read is what they wanted struck, to which they agreed and the motion was amended to read:

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson to strike the phrase in the July 1, 2008 minutes which is as follows: He also expressed his concern regarding Mr. Saeli's personal issues against Mr. Nicholson which are being brought into town business and may result in Mr. Nicholson terminating his contract with the sewer district. Mr. Saeli indicated that would not be an issue as he has someone who he feels would be willing to replace Mr. Nicholson.

Roll Call:

Jeff Case: Yes

John Saeli: Yes

Richard Peterson: Yes

Robert Hayssen: Yes

Absent: Kathy Russo

So Carried

It was again determined that the minutes do not need to be approved by the board, but Mrs. Karlsen indicated she would like the boards approval on the minutes that have not been voted on to date.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve June 26, July 1, July 5, July 19, August 5 and August 19, 2008 minutes.

Mr. Case provided Mr. Hayssen and Mrs. Karlsen a copy of the Varick Volunteer Fire Department's 2009 budget.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Town Clerk