

Varick Town Board  
May 5, 2009

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 council members, Jeff Case, John Saeli, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Town Attorney, John Sipos, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, and Bookkeeper, Carol Sipos. Also present were Rob Bauman, Jim Bromka, K. W. Padgett, Philip Knapp, Ed Stephany, Bob Taylor, Jim Delia, Judy Delia and Dave Dresser.

**Privilege of the Floor:** None.

**Highway:** Mr. McCulloch reported that the department is prepared for the Spring Clean up and that he will arrange for the dumpsters to be put in place. He suggested and the board agreed that a sign be placed at the town hall in the future advertising clean up dates. The department will construct the sign in time for Fall Clean up.

He also reported that they are updating road signs to meet state requirements. He will be meeting with Vestal Asphalt and others to get suggestions on how best to repair Townline Road. He also will be looking at Ogden Road repairs. He questioned the board as to whether they wanted to move forward with the paving of the town's parking lot and questioned Mr. Sipos if town funds could be used to complete this project. Mr. Sipos indicated that there would be no problem with funding this project and the board directed him to proceed with the paving.

Mr. Peterson reported that the Palmyra auction was coming up and reminded the board that they had previously discussed whether it would be beneficial to purchase a new truck off of state bid on a yearly basis and take the current truck to Palmyra to be auctioned off. The state pricing on the trucks is low enough that in some cases the year old trucks have brought as much if not more than what they were originally purchased for. It was reported that other municipalities have begun this practice. Mr. McCulloch reported that he had approximately 11,000 miles on his truck. Due to the late date and the economy, it was decided to wait till next year to pursue this. Mr. Peterson will be attending the Palmyra auction and will report back as to what kind of prices were received on used trucks.

**Varick Water District No. 4 (Route 89 Water):** Mr. Bromka reported that after passing out petitions to the Town of Romulus, Route 89 residents, 60 to 65 percent were in favor of municipal water. Ken Reimer presented these figures to the Romulus Town Board and requested that the Romulus board proceed with a public hearing in order to move this project forward. The Romulus Town board denied the request. The water committee will be meeting with engineer Tim Buhl regarding this project.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the Town of Varick had to provide to Rural Development a letter explaining that Varick Water District No. 4 can be constructed as a stand alone project and does not require the Town of Romulus to move forward. The letter also indicated that if and when the Town of Romulus wishes to proceed with their project they will submit a separate PED to their office.

Mr. Hayssen and/or Mr. Sipos will contact Municipal Solutions to see if an application has been submitted to the State Comptroller yet.

**Varick Water District No. 3 (Fayette Water):** Attorney Steve Ricci has been contacted by the State Comptroller's office requesting further information, which he is in the process of compiling.

**Seneca Lake Water:** Mr. Hayssen is still proceeding with the issue of ownership of the water line on the former depot property, and getting paid for three quarters of water usage from the three water connections located in the Town of Romulus.

It was reported that Seneca County Water District No. 1 installed a water meter on Kennedy Road to replace Seneca Lake Water District's meter that was no longer working. The Varick Town Board has no knowledge as what type of meter was purchased by Seneca County Water District No. 1 and determined that the Village of Waterloo is to read the new meter and the meter located in the pump station till further notice. Mr. Hayssen will continue to follow up on the discrepancies regarding this district.

A discussion took place as to what to do with the truck owned by the water department. The water committee will discuss this and bring suggestions back to the board.

The question was raised as to who would be completing the annually exercising and maintenance of the fire hydrants. It was felt that John Yells would not be interest in doing this and the Village of Waterloo wasn't sure if they would have the time. Ben Karlsen, who did this for three years under John Zujac was suggested and Mr. Bromka agreed that he is familiar with the hydrants and was willing to meet with him to get him started.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to hire Ben Karlsen to complete the annual exercising and maintenance of the Seneca Lake Water District fire hydrants.

Jamie King from the Village of Waterloo is to fix the vent shut offs. Mr. Bromka received permission from the Board to pressure test the 1,000 foot of water line at the Mormon's camp for leaks.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** The Public Works Committee of Seneca County is proposing that the Board of Supervisors establish rules related to the establishment of Sewer rents for Seneca County Sewer District No. 1 requiring that Sewer District No. 1 charge a uniform fee for use of the district facilities to both in-district users as well as out-of-district users. It is recommended by this committee that the Board of Supervisors exercise its powers under Article 5-A of the County Law and 452 of the General Municipal law to require that sewer rent for Sewer District No. 1 be made uniform for in-district and out-of-district users.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to supporting the Public Works Committee in their effort to require that sewer rents for Sewer District No. 1 be made uniform for in-district and out-of district users.

The board discussed a pump located at 5501 East Lake Road which Dan Duddleston reports having to respond to the alarm going off whenever it rains. It is felt that ground water is flowing into the pump. Bob Helstrom, who completed this installation, was called to camera the line, but has not done so to date. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the homeowner informing them of their responsibility with regards to this issue and any further repairs could be the responsibility of the homeowner.

It was noted that the bi-ox system is not connected and there have not been any recent complaints of odor. It was recommended that the Mormons be contacted to make sure they flush their sewer line periodically to help prevent back up of stagnant sewage.

The stainless steel bolts for the man hole covers need to be found.

Mr. Hayssen is still working on getting Seneca County Sewer District No. 2 to reimburse the Varick Sewer District No. 2 for the eight places that were connected to our line.

**Assessor's Report:** Mrs. Karlsen reported on behalf of Mrs. Morgan that she filed the Tentative Assessment Role with the town clerk on April 30, 2009. Grievance Day will be held May 27<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. and will notify the Assessment Board of Review. Her summer work plan consists of purging files, preparing exemption cycle and reviewing properties.

**Town Clerk's Report:** Revenue to: Supervisor: \$150.18, County Treasurer: \$22.32, State Ag & Markets: \$3.00, State Health Department: \$22.50. Total disbursements: \$198.00.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report.

**Supervisor's report:** Mr. Hayssen reviewed the January 22, 2009 motion pertaining to water rates for the Varick/Romulus water districts in the Hamlet of Romulus and Varick/Fayette water districts. He would like the resolution to include the Town of Romulus and Town of Fayette residents as well.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to amend the January 22, 2009 resolution pertaining to the sale of water as follows: A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to sell water to the Town of Varick Water District No. 3, Town of Fayette Water District No. 5, and Town of Varick and Romulus residents in the Hamlet of Romulus at Varick's cost for a period of five years at which time the agreement can be reviewed and renegotiated if necessary. This cost reduction will be assessed only if the residents of the recognized districts receive the cost savings.

Mr. Hayssen reviewed the cost for the Town of Romulus to do the billing for Varick water and sewer districts located in the Hamlet of Romulus and proposed that we do our own billing for our

district. Mrs. Sipos reported that we have done this in the past. The board will look further into this. He also presented a copy of a water report requested by Dorothy Hill from the Town of Romulus which made no sense and did not show her complete history. Mr. Hayssen will look further into this.

Mr. Hayssen presented the agenda for the Seneca County Water Symposium to be held Thursday, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the Heroes Conference Room, Seneca County Office Building. He would like to see the County send the agendas to all council members.

Mr. Hayssen presented another bill from Bonadio which will be held and reviewed once the audits are completed.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's written report.

Mr. Hayssen also discussed the possibility of extending Seneca Lake Water District line up Yale Farm Road and requested permission to look into this. Mr. Sipos stated that funds from this district can be used and will look further into the steps that need to be taken.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to have Mr. Hayssen investigate extending the Seneca Lake Water District up Yale Farm Road.

**Planning Board:** Mr. Hayssen reported that the special meeting regarding the zoning code went well and that some common sense changes were proposed. They boards discussed the issue of grandfathered properties and its interpretation at length and Mr. Houge is to contact Mr. Sipos regarding this issue.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Russo reported that there will be Summer School at Romulus this year, which will impact the number of children attending Summer Rec. Michelle Andrews has agreed to be the director again. Cathy has gone to all four schools in the area and posted the position of junior counselors. She hopes to receive two employees from Work Force through the county this year.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 7 with the addition of Mr. Sipos's name regarding whose concerns Jerry Archibald reviewed.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to approve Abstract No. 5, Seneca Lake Water, Vouchers SWS09-18 to SWS09-22 in the amount of \$18,405.26, Highway, Vouchers DAO09-31 to 49 in the amount of \$3,241.82, General, Vouchers AOO09-66 to AOO09-81 in the amount of \$2,654.75.

Mr. Saeli and Mr. Case would like Mr. McCulloch to inquire about the finance charge from Martins.

**Old Business, New Business and Correspondence:** The windows and back wall of the building will be addressed once the weather breaks. The security system was tabled until Mr. Peterson contacts the companies regarding the quotes provided for this system.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen  
Town Clerk