

Varick Town Board

May 4, 2010

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were Council Members John Saeli, Peter McDonald, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, Town Attorney, John Sipos, Highway Superintendent Richard McCulloch, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, and Bookkeeper, Carol Sipos. Also present were Frank & Dorothy Case, Jeff Case, and Aaron Stevens and reporter from the Finger Lakes Times.

Mr. McDonald presented Jeff Case and Frank Case plaques honoring them for their years of service.

Privilege of the Floor: Mr. Aaron Stevens addressed the proposed monofill by Scepter Inc. of Seneca Falls. He views the monofill as another dump, just like Seneca Meadows and noted that if allowed it will be here forever contaminating the watershed in the area. He proposed, as a minimum, a straw vote is held in the Town of Varick to determine the will of the people on this issue. It was noted that Scepter is planning on holding a public hearing regarding the proposed monofill and Mr. Stevens would like a straw vote held within the following week of the hearing. He also provided and read off an informational sheet he received in his paper tube by an unknown source regarding Scepter's plans and what they would be dumping in the proposed monofill. He indicated that the Town of Tyre has already said no to this type of dump and feels the Town of Varick needs to do the same. He would like to see landfills zoned out countywide.

Mrs. Russo indicated that she is not in favor of the monofill and Mr. Saeli reported that those who have approached him on this subject have also not been in favor of the monofill in the Town of Varick. It was pointed out that the Varick Planning Board is an important key in this decision and would be the one that would have to issue the Special Use Permit for this project. It was noted that if Scepter meets all the conditions of the Special Use Permit, the Planning Board can't turn them down on that basis. Mr. Stevens felt that if DEC understands that the will of people are not in favor of the monofill, DEC won't allow it. Mr. Sipos was not in agreement with Mr. Steven's thoughts regarding DEC and cited an example where they went against the people's wishes. Mr. Hayssen stated that the host benefit package being offered, if the monofill were to be considered, is not nearly enough. The board also discussed holding a straw vote, but noted that State Comptroller states that town funds can not be used for this purpose. It was determined that if a straw vote were to be held, volunteers would need to work the polls. Mr. McDonald felt the town board and Scepter would need to take responsibility for informing the citizens of any public hearing to be held. No action was taken at this time regarding the straw vote as the date of Scepter's public hearing was unknown.

Highway: Mr. McCulloch reported that he has arranged for the dumpsters for Spring Clean Up and Mr. Hayssen will see that a post card gets mailed informing residents of the Spring and Fall Clean Up Dates. Mr. McCulloch also reported that the truck has been delivered to Palmyra for the auction to be held that coming Saturday. He has made no plans for expenditure of the CHIP funds as it is still unsure if the town will receive them.

He also explained a bill for switching of tires from one set of rims to another due to sensors.

Varick Water District No. 1: Mr. Hayssen reviewed briefly his concerns over the figures supplied by the Town of Romulus representing funds due to Varick Water District No. 1. He indicated that the figure they presented and paid the district did not include any fund balances. It was suggested by Mr. Hayssen and Mr. McDonald that expenditures, revenues, check registers and any other information pertinent to this district's financials be entered into an excel spreadsheet for ease of reviewing. Mr. McDonald reported that he knows of someone who would be interested in doing this work.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to authorize Peter McDonald to hire an individual to transfer all bank registers and pertinent information pertaining to Varick Water District No. 1 accounts into an excel file at a cost of \$18 per hour.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to authorize Mr. Hayssen and Mr. McDonald to obtain the last three years' vouchers pertaining to this district.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to collect a percentage of the fund balance as dictated by the 2009 units, or 44%.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to pay Seneca County 44% of the sewer bill once the money is collected from this quarter's billing.

Mr. Sipos prepared a draft Administration Agreement for the Varick Water District No. 1 and Varick Sewer District No. 1 between the Town of Romulus and the Town of Varick for the board to review and make changes to if necessary. It was explained that the Town of Varick would be responsible for the maintenance and paying of bills incurred by these districts through the 2010 established budget. It was suggested that the purchase of water and treatment of sewer be included in this agreement.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. Saeli reported that Bill Kolbeck will be filling in for John Yells while he is out of town on vacation. It was noted that Mr. Kolbeck was hired as the sewer maintainer at a hirer rate of pay and the Village of Waterloo previously has covered for Mr. Yells when he is out of town at no additional cost to the district.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to have Bill Kolbeck fill in for John Yells while on vacation at the same rate of pay as John Yells.

Mr. Saeli will check with Mr. Kolbeck to make sure he is willing to do this at John Yells pay rate. It was also noted that Mr. Kolbeck was mowing the lawn at the fire house at a

rate of \$19.50 an hour and in the past high school students have done it for much less. Mr. Saeli will check with the Scotts, who have done the mowing in the past, to see if they are still interested in doing it.

Varick Water District No. 3: Mr. Peterson presented a Draft Equivalent Domestic Unit Assessment Schedule for this district which was discussed at a meeting held with the Town of Fayette. The board was agreeable with all the assessments except for commercial or industrial buildings where it states that 1.0 EDU for all other Commercial or Industrial Buildings with annual consumption that is or may be forecasted to be less than 70,000 gallons per year. An additional 1.0 EDU for every 70,000 gallons or fraction thereof reasonably forecasted by the Town Board. The board felt regardless of the water usage the unit should be assessed at one unit.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Peter McDonald to accept the unit assessments as discussed with the Town of Fayette as follows and to assess Commercial or Industrial Buildings one unit regardless of water usage.

Mr. Hayssen expressed his opinion that there should be no operation and maintenance charge, that this should be raised through an increased water rate. Mr. McDonald did not agree and felt operation and maintenance of the line should be raised through an O & M charge.

Mr. Peterson reported that there will be a public hearing held at the Fayette Fire House at 7:00 p.m. on May 6 to answer any questions regarding this district. It was noted that the water rate still remains unresolved and what constitutes out of district users.

Mr. Peterson discussed with the board the applications received for the Clerk of the Works on this project. After much discussion it was decided to hire Seneca County for this position. Jason McCormick indicated that he would be available and on the job site to assist in the inspections as well.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to hire Seneca County Water & Sewer District to do the Clerk of the Works position at \$35 per hour.

Varick Water District No. 4: Tim Buhl still needs to submit more paper work to Rural Development. Rural Development is requesting paperwork be submitted by the Cayuga Nation, but Mr. Hayssen corrected this information and noted it should be Seneca Nation.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Hayssen estimates that Seneca County owes this district approximately \$130,000 plus interest. In Frank Fisher's opinion, the county owns the sewer line, which is a topic of debate.

Mr. Hayssen has scheduled a meeting with a litigation attorney to seek their services in resolving this matter.

Mr. Hayssen would like to see Seneca Lake Sewer District be extended to Seneca County Sewer District No. 1.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Revenues to Supervisor: \$208.23, County Treasurer: \$5.87, Health Department: \$22.50, Department of Conservation: \$27.40: Total Disbursements: \$264.00

Supervisor's Report: Mr. Hayssen reported that the funds for Varick Water District No. 1 were found and the balance is approximately \$30,000.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to accept the written Supervisor's report.

Bookkeeper: Carol Sipos supplied the board with a draft copy of the Financial Executive Summary for years ending December 2007 and 2008. Thomas Laffer, auditor for Ray Wager, CPA, P. C. reported that they had to use Bonadio's ending figures from their audit of 2007 and that there is a discrepancy in the balances that are currently recorded in Seneca Lake Water District and Varick Sewer District No. 2 as the result of Bonadio's "due to" and "due from" transactions. It was the mutual consensus of the board that the figures supplied by Bonadio were not accurate, but resulted from poor bookkeeping and inaccurate posting on the part of the prior Supervisor. Mr. Lauffer gave the board two options; they could hire an outside person to try to prove Bonadio's figures wrong and get the correct figures, which in his opinion would be very difficult to do as he described the prior years bookkeeping as a "shoebox" operation and felt Bonadio did the best they could do with what was provided to them or the second option was to accept the figures from Bonadio and adjust the accounts accordingly. The board discussed the money already spent trying to get the books balanced for the prior years and taking into consideration the bookkeeping records for those prior years, decided to proceed with the figures supplied by Bonadio, adjust the accounts accordingly and have Ray Wager's firm proceed with the 2008 and 2009 audits.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to accept the figures supplied by Bonadio and adjust the accounts accordingly.

Personnel: Mrs. Russo reported that Michelle Andrews has agreed to be the director again for the Summer Recreation Program and will be reviewing the applications submitted, and choosing her own staff this year. Mrs. Russo indicated that she has received seven applications to date. Mrs. Karlsen informed her she received an email from Romulus stating that she was being sent some application from them as well. Mrs. Russo indicated she would get them from her.

Assessor: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to accept the Assessor's written report.

Minutes: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 6, 2010 and April 29, 2010.

Abstract: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 5, General, Vouchers A00-10-173 in the amount of \$1,768.88, Seneca Lake Water, Vouchers SWS-10-19 to SWS-10-22 in the amount of \$380.82, Highway, Vouchers DA0-10-23 to DA0-10-34 in the amount of \$6,063.08, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW1-10-0001 to VW1-10-0002 in the amount of \$5,184.40.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve payment of bills for Varick Water District No. 3 as follows:

Donna Karlsen, Petty Cash	\$34.20
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A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk