

April 3, 2012

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 Peter McDonald, John Saeli, Kathy Russo and Robert Bauman, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Dog Control Officer, John Vincent, Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Colton, Bookkeeper, Cheryl Poormon and Reporter, Aneta Glover. Absent: Town Attorney, John Sipos, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, and Bookkeeper, Carol Sipos.

**Dog Control Officer Report:** Mr. Vincent reported that he has been Dog Control Officer for over 20 years and will be retiring from this position on June 30 of this year. He reported that over the past year and a half, when he wasn't available to take a call he has been assisted by Brian McCann and his daughter Jackie Vincent with them receiving no compensation from the town. He suggested that a deputy or assistance DCO be appointed at no additional cost to cover when the DCO isn't available and recommended to the board that they consider Brian McCann and Jackie Vincent as the new DCO officer and deputy/assistant once he retires. He suggested that the board appoint them now at no additional compensation for him to train until his retirement in June at which time the appointed DCO would receive the budgeted DCO pay with no additional compensation to the deputy/assistant. In essence you would be getting two people for the price of one.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to sadly accept John Vincent's resignation effective June 30, 2012 and to appoint Brian McCann and Jackie Vincent as deputies to DCO John Vincent for training purposes until his retirement date of June 30 at which time Brian McCann will take over as DCO officer at the budgeted pay amount and Jackie Vincent will become the DCO deputy at no additional cost to the town.

Mr. Vincent reported that he had put in the storage trailer at the town hall several years ago some wire kennels which he is unsure if they are still there or not. He also reported that he has one snare, one or two lead ropes, a dog kennel and a hitch hauler. He reported that all dogs are taken to Beverly's Animal Shelter, who the town contracts with.

**Code Enforcement:** Larry Colton reported that he received a complaint from the residents at 648 Yale Farm Road regarding free range chickens. It was reported that there is no ordinance addressing this matter and that area is zoned agricultural.

He also reported that he received a complaint from Jim Somerville regarding his neighbor at 5626 East Lake Road. Mr. Somerville feels that the neighbor's tongue of their camper trailer overhangs onto his property. The board reported that prior discussions have taken place regarding 5626 East Lake Road and it is grandfathered under the prior zoning code regulations. It was suggested that if Mr. Somerville has any further concerns regarding this issue, he send in a written complaint.

Mr. Colton also reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals public hearing regarding the proposed Verizon cell tower is to be held May 1, 2012 and that Mr. Colton as CEO and

his wife as secretary to the Zoning Board recluses themselves from this hearing. He reported that the county does not inspect the footers and he referred to our zoning code number 311.3N where it states that the town can hire an outside engineer and back charge the cost to Verizon to do have this inspection completed. It was reported that Verizon when questioned at the March meeting about inspections, reported that inspection of their work is completed by a licensed New York State P.E. If an outside engineer is hired to inspect for the town, Verizon would have to agree to pay the engineering cost which could be one of the stipulations made by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

It was suggested that the Seneca County Health Department be contacted regarding stock cars and other junk on an Ernsberger Road property.

**Highway:** Mr. McDonald stated that he would look at the roof off of the back of the building if he can use a ladder from the highway department. He will contact Rick about this.

**Varick Sewer District No. 1:** Mr. McDonald reported that back in October 2011 Rob Bauman was to be trained by the county on how to inspect the manholes and nothing has been done on this. It was noted that Romulus' manholes need to be done as well. This was tabled until a discussion could be held with Romulus.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Nothing

**Water District No. 1:** Mr. Hayssen reported that he has fired Seneca County Water and Sewer from doing any future work for the town of Varick at this time as the result of an excessive bill he received from them recently. He is still reviewing this bill with the county. He reported that Jim Bromka is willing to be this district's designated Water Operator and complete the water testing for \$100 per month or \$1,200 a year.

Russell Road water line was to be repaired by the county and Mr. McDonald received pricing from them November 1, 2011 and nothing has been done to this date.

Rob Bauman reported that he spoke to Jim Bromka and all but one meter was able to be read in this district.

**Seneca Lake Water District:** It was reported that neither Gary Westfall nor Jim Bromka were willing to assist in writing the bid specifications to replace the bolts on the hydrants or repair main valves. John Saeli doesn't feel qualified to write the specifications.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by John Saeli to hire an engineer to write bid specifications to replace hydrant bolt and repair main valves.  
Motion withdrawn.

**Discussion:** The board discussed other options to get bid specifications written and expressed concern over the cost of using an engineer. It was decided to withdraw the motion at this time.

It was suggested that the “O” rings not be replaced if no leaks were found. Mr. Hayssen estimated that it would cost approximately \$550 to \$700 each to do the required work and the individual should have a Class D Water Maintainer’s license.

It was reported that the town does have some replacement bolts on hand, but not nearly enough and Mr. Saeli felt it should be up to the contactor to purchase the bolts. Mr. McDonald, Mr. Bauman and Mr. Hayssen felt that the town could purchase the bolts as there would be specifications as to how many bolts would be required and the clerk of the works could keep track of materials. The purchase of the bolts was tabled to be given more thought.

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Mr. Bauman reported that every meter was able to be read in this district. The Fayette Hotel transponder needs to be changed as it isn’t the correct one for a 2” line. The county is considering putting in a 4” line.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the bond closing with Rural Development was held in March. He also recently received some disputed billing from the county for the burn out completed by the county. Mr. Hayssen reported that Steve Ricchi requested permission from this board to hire Wendy March of Hancock Estabrook to assist in settling the issues with Seneca County and Syracuse Constructors regarding this district.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to authorize Steve Ricci to hire Wendy March of Hancock Estabrook to assist in settling disputed issues with Seneca County and Syracuse Constructors.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that Syracuse Constructors attorney FOILED information regarding Water District No. 3 and a brief review of Syracuse’s Constructor’s Notice of Claim was discussed.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** The town will need to hold a Public Hearing resulting from some figure changes that were made. Douglas Goodfriend of Orrick will prepare the necessary advertisement and information for this public hearing. This is primarily an informational public hearing. Mr. Hayssen is waiting for the Letter of Conditions from Rural Development, which he should be receiving shortly.

**General Water:** Mr. Hayssen and Mr. McDonald will write up the job description and add for the general contractor to work on water and sewer lines and get it to the clerk to be entered into the Finger Lakes Times.

**Town Clerk’s Report:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk’s Report: Supervisor: \$382.10; New

York State Agriculture and Markets: \$26;. NYS Environmental Conservation: \$27.40;  
Total Disbursements: \$435.50

**Supervisor's Report:** A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the written Supervisor's Report.

**Personnel:** Mrs. Russo reported that she has completed the building use form at Romulus Central for the Summer Recreation program and dropped employment applications off for the students. She will add to the student's enrollment form the township in which they live for informational purposes.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 6, 2012.

**Abstract:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 4, General, Vouchers A0012-58 to A0012-62 in the amount of \$2,501.70, Highway, Vouchers DAO12-22 to DAO12-26 in the amount of \$2,132.25, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS112-12 to VS112-13 in the amount of \$55.47, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Voucher SSS12-007 in the amount of \$500, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS12-22 to SWS12-24 in the amount of \$22,631.01, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW312-005 in the amount of \$4,918.86.

**Correspondence:** Lee and Linda Mastellar sent an email to the Varick, Fayette and Romulus town boards regarding their concern about the merger potential between Romulus Central and South Seneca and lack of comprehensiveness of the study being completed and asked that the local town boards take some interest. At a meeting earlier in the year, the two school boards met with the consultants to review the merger study process. At this meeting Mrs. Mastellar asked the consultants to show them where the study considered the impact of a merger as it pertains to local home values, social and economic impact on local communities, social impacts to local families and children, and the residual impact on the merged district after expiration of the 14 year enhanced aid package. The consulting firm reported that nowhere in the study do they evaluate or consider any of those issues. The advisory committee that has been established to work with the consultants does not look at community impact and is requesting the boards to commission a parallel study to investigate the affects on the local community.

A motion by Robert Bauman, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to go on record supporting Lee and Linda Mastellar's request by email of April 2, 2012 that the boards of the town of Varick, town of Fayette, and town of Romulus commission a parallel study to investigate the effects on the local community pertaining to a merger between Romulus Central School and South Seneca School systems providing the two other towns support Mastellar's request.

Mr. Hayssen received a financial practices report as provided by Brad Pinsky and Associates for South Seneca Ambulance Corp, Inc. They indicated in their cover letter

that a formal audit is usually performed by CPAs, however the cost is prohibitive and would better serve the public. The board took no action regarding this report.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk