

Varick Town Board  
August 7, 2012

The regular meeting was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were council members John Saeli and Kathy Russo, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Colton, Reporter, Aneita Glover and town resident, Mike Crowe. Absent were Council members Peter McDonald and Rob Bauman, Town Attorney, John Sipos and Bookkeeper, Carol Sipos.

**Privilege of the Floor:** Ken Erskine and Larry Abraham from Colonial Voluntary Benefits/The Paul Revere Life Insurance Company did a brief overview of services and benefit options available to eligible town employees. They provided contact information to those who may be interested.

Mike Crowe questioned if the town codes addressed the issue of chickens being housed within 30' of a next door residence, and sited specifically outside his bedroom window as an example. Larry Colton stated that he has spoken with Mr. Crowe and currently he could not find a code that would address his complaint. The question was raised as to the zoning of Mr. Crowe's property according to the Agricultural maps filed with the Seneca County Planning. Mr. Colton will contact Harriet Haines in the Planning Department to review the agriculture district maps to see if Mike Crowe's property and the neighboring property are zoned agricultural or residential. Mr. Colton also reported that there was another issue with chickens being housed in the hamlet of Romulus resulting in an over population of rats. Mr. Colton feels the zoning code does address this particular issue and will follow up on this. The board will direct the Planning Board to review Mike Crowe's issue and see if they can address this within the zoning code.

**Roof Repair:** Mr. Saeli reported that the health department would require engineering plans if the board were to replace the existing barn roof with steel, so the specification for the bid proposals were changed to asphalt replacement. Mr. McCulloch reported that he received several phone calls from large, out of the area contractors who requested bid specification for the roof repair and once they realized the size of the project, were not interested. It was felt that this notice somehow made it to the internet, which is why the town received calls from large, out of town contractors. He did receive a verbal, off the cuff price from one of the out of district contractors of \$16,000, which was felt to be very high. Mr. McCulloch did not receive any phone calls or bid proposals from local contractors. He did speak to Greg Cool who was not interested in doing the job, but did state that pricing usually runs for this type of job between \$3.60 to \$3.70 per square foot, resulting in a cost of approximately \$10,000. It was suggested that John Saeli contact Contractor John Keel who has done previous work on the roof for the town to see if he might be interested. Supervisor Hayssen also gave John Saeli a business card of a local contractor who within the last day or so indicated he would be interested in quoting the job. Mr. Saeli is to contact both of these contractors for pricing. Mr. Hayssen suggested just getting a price for labor and the town would provide materials if the contractors were just interested in quoting labor costs.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to table the roof repair and to direct John Saeli to make some phone calls to potentially interested contractors.

**Highway:** Mr. McCulloch reported that the highway department has been providing assistance to Seneca County Highway who will return the favor and assist with the paving of White Road.

**Zoning Code Officer Report:** Mr. Colton reported that that the town code does address the chicken issue in the hamlet of Romulus, which is causing rat issues as well. Cheryl Poormon reported that Taggots who own the chickens stopped in the town office the previous week and indicated that he will be getting rid of the chickens. Larry Colton will follow up on this.

Mr. Colton also reported that he will take care of an issue on Ernsburger Road and has pulled the building permit for a remodeling of a barn on Route 89 and 124 which he thought should be commercial, but is currently being used for storage. He also reported that the Mormons did just install concrete pads as indicated in their building permit. Mr. Colton informed the board that it has been arranged that Seneca County Health Department does not issue a Certificate of Occupancy until the town's inspection is completed.

#### **General Water and Sewer Business:**

It was advised by Seneca County Health Department that more chlorination tests be completed for our districts and the Village of Waterloo provided information on a chlorination testing devise which they suggested would be a good investment for the districts as well. The cost of this devise is approximately \$420. This devise could also be used in checking the water coming from the hydrants when flushing the line, rather than running excessive water to make sure the chlorine level is where it should be.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to purchase a pocket chlorinator to test chlorination levels within the water districts.

The question was raised if the board decided to dismiss both contractor submittals for digging and have the town set the rate, what would that rate be and could we find a contractor willing to work for that rate. This was tabled to next month.

**Water District No. 1:** Supervisor Hayssen reminded the board that Jim Bromka was hired as this district's Water Systems Operator at a cost of \$100 a month. It is required by state law that all water districts have a certified water systems operator in place.

**Seneca Lake Water District:** There are approximately 60 to 70 meter/transponders that no longer are working in this district and some meters have been ordered and received but depending on what the water maintainer finds when replacing them, it is anticipated that approximately at least 15 more will need to be ordered. Ben Karlsen has started replacing the meters and will continue to do so as the homeowners become available to give him access to the meters within their homes.

It will be requested of the Mormon Camp that a master meter be installed at the road to monitor water usage. It will be their responsibility to purchase this meter as the lines servicing the camp is outside of the district and the camp claimed ownership of them when they put them in.

**Water District No. 3:** Hancock Estabrook submitted a bill \$3,504.30, showing the town of Varick's portion owed to be \$1,752.15, which is 50% of the bill. Mr. Hayssen noted that the town only owes approximately 42% of this bill and may have over paid the last two bills submitted by this firm if those bills were divided in half between Fayette and Varick. Mrs. Karlsen will pull the previous two bills paid, refigure the correct amount that the town should have paid and deduct the amount that has been over paid from this current bill.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to pay the corrected amount once the over payment from the previous paid bills are deducted from Hancock Estabrook's current billing.

In good faith, Supervisor Hayssen directed Carol Sipos to review the billing to the homeowners for gallons of water used from start up of the line to present so that the district could pay the county for the water that we know has been consumed by our users. The outstanding bill presented to Fayette from the county showing proposed gallons used by both Varick 3 and Fayette 5 users is still under dispute and Fayette is supposed to be working on this. It was suggested that a master meter be placed at McDougal Road and at the old firehouse in Fayette to better determine the portion of the water bills from Seneca County Water and Sewer that actual belong to Varick 3.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** Tim Buhl is in the process of getting the town's copy of the easement map filed in the town offices. Most of the required paperwork has been filed with Rural Development and the project is progressing.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Bill Kolbeck has been working with the Mormon Camp and has requested that an 8" valve and shut off be installed. The cost of this valve is the Mormons responsibility.

Mr. Saeli reported that he ordered four new grinder pumps which have been received at a cost of \$1,638 each with no shipping charge.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report: Revenue to Supervisor: \$324.43, Ag and Markets: \$23, DEC: \$33.07, State Health Department: \$22.50, Total Disbursements: \$403.

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

**Assessor's Report:** The board received a written Assessor's report for their review.

**Personnel Report:** Mrs. Russo reported that everything is going very well with the Summer Recreation program despite the heat and construction being competed at the school. She should have the break down of students according to townships by next month's meeting and reported that there are approximately 40 to 50 children registered.

**Minutes:** A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of June 28, 2012.

**Abstract:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract 8, General, Vouchers A0012-117 to A0012-133 in the amount of \$1,782.68, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW312-018 to VW312-23 in the amount of \$7,997.79, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS12-017 to SSS12-025 in the amount of \$77,873.18, Highway, Vouchers DA012-43 to DA012-47 in the amount of \$5,148.97, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers VS112-26 to VS112-29 in the amount of \$2,120.28, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW112-009 to VW112-12 in the amount of \$447.50, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS12-49 to SWS12-59 in the amount of \$68,592.85.

### **Old Business, New Business & Correspondence:**

In order to complete maintenance on Water District No. 3 the New York State Department of Transportation requires an Undertaking for the benefit of the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with work affecting state highway. They are requesting from the board a motion accepting this undertaking or a bond at a cost of \$150. It was determined to present the motion as follows:

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to enter into an Undertaking for the benefit of the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with work affecting state highways and to direct Supervisor Hayssen to sign.

Larry Colton wrote a letter to Cindy Lorenzetti expressing his concern over the interruption of water flow as the result of air getting into his system, which he feels happens when hydrants are being flushed or water is pumped for extinguishing fires. He indicated in his letter that they would need to flush all toilets and open all faucets in order to release this air from their water supply, which is annoying and a waste of water being metered to him. He has spoken to Jim Bromka about this who indicated to him that an air release vent be placed in the line to relieve accumulated air.

Mr. Hayssen spoke to Mr. Colton regarding this matter and suggested that a letter be addressed to Supervisor Cindy Lorenzetti as the Town of Fayette was lead agent on this project. Several questions were raised as to possible reasons why his system is getting air in it and the subject was tabled until further input could be received.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the county will not be replacing the engineering position vacated by Jason McCormick.

Mrs. Karlsen presented information from the Cayuga Watershed, which the board declined to become a member of.

Mr. Sipos had Mrs. Karlsen pass out the following information for the board's review for the next board meeting to be held in September: proposed Town of Varick's Hiring Policy, possible

unit assessment fees for water and sewer districts and information regarding a resolution pertaining to the Planning Board and their work.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk