

October 1, 2013

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 Peter McDonald, John Saeli, Kathy Russo and Robert Bauman, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Town Judge, David Ettman, Attorney for the Town, Steve Ricchi, Town of Fayette Supervisor, Cindy Lorenzetti, Town Resident, Mike Bently. Absent: Superintendent Richard McCulloch.

**Petitioners to Address the Board:** Mike Bently felt that the truck traffic along Route 89 has been reduced and questioned the board as to their stance on Seneca Meadows May 28, 2013 plans to develop operation by railroad at the Seneca Meadows Landfill. They have proposed to develop a rail spur to transport solid waste to its existing facility in the Town of Seneca Falls and has asked the Town of Seneca Falls to authorize a zoning change that allows for the project to move forward. The board reviewed the proposed plans for this extension and expressed concerns for the disruption in traffic flow and loss of revenue from truck traffic coming off of the thruway. The Seneca County Board of Supervisors submitted a resolution to the Town of Seneca Falls opposing this spur and Supervisor Hayssen is asking the Varick Town Board to propose a similar resolution. Discussion was held regarding filings that are no longer being taken by Seneca Meadows, fracking liquid and leaching. They also discussed the 2007 proposed railroad facility at Seneca Meadows which had everything housed on their own property. The board was in favor of passing a resolution and discussed how detailed it should be and chose to model it after the resolution the Board of Supervisors passed. The following motion will be sent to the Seneca County Board of Supervisor and Town of Seneca Falls:

**TOWN OF VARICK BOARD OPPOSES SENECA MEADOWS, INC.'S May 28, 2013 PLANS TO DEVELOP RAILROAD OPERATIONS AT THE SENECA MEADOWS LANDFILL**

**WHEREAS**, Seneca Meadows, Inc. has proposed to develop a rail spur to transport solid waste to its existing facility in the Town of Seneca Falls; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board voted unanimously on August 6, 2013 to authorize a zoning change that allows for the project to move forward; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Varick urges the Town of Seneca Falls to reconsider its support for the project; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Varick Town Board opposes the development of a rail spur to serve Seneca Meadows Landfill; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the Varick Town Board urges the Town of Seneca Falls to disapprove of the rail project.

Motion: Robert Hayssen

Seconded by: Robert Bauman  
So Carried Unanimously

**Judges Report:** Judge Ettman reported that he would like a motion from the board to support submitting a grant application for the Varick Court through the State Office of Justice Court Support Justice Court Assistance Program Grant. The items he is requesting grant funds for is a panic alarm system in the amount of \$1,970.99, CCTV video monitoring system in the amount of \$5,130, a new desktop computer and related accessories in the amount of \$2,000 and two 8000 BTU window air conditioning units for the courtroom in the amount of \$500. He reviewed the surrounding town's security systems and expressed his concern over safety issues at the town hall. The board also discussed getting the panic alarm system for the bookkeeper and town clerk. Judge Ettman will look into the cost of adding the security system for those offices. The board felt that if the grant is not awarded, security should still be pursued.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to support the grant application and approve submittal of the following resolution to the State Office of Justice Court Support Justice Court Assistance Program Grants:

**WHEREAS** the Town of Varick Justice Court is eligible to participate in the 2013 NY State Office of Justice Court Support Justice Court Assistance Program Grant process; and

**WHEREAS** the Town Justice, in consultation with the administrative and security personnel of the Court has prepared a list of requested improvements to the Town Court to address security, computer upgrades and productivity as well as courtroom comfort enhancements, as set forth below,

**NOW**, upon vote of the Town Board, 5 in favor, 0 opposed, it is hereby

**RESOLVED** that the Town Board of the Town of Varick supports the grant application of the Town of Varick Court and will incorporate the aforesaid improvements into ongoing budget planning for the Town to meet the operational needs of the Court.

**Zoning Board:** It was reported that Carl Stuck received approval of the variance he applied for the used car business at his Route 96A property.

**Varick Sewer District No. 1:** Mr. Hayssen authorized repair work to be completed on one of the pump station motors.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Mr. Saeli reported that four grinder pumps were purchased last year.

**Varick Water District No. 1:** Peter McDonald reviewed the report submitted by Stephan Consulting regarding the water leak detection completed for this district. A copy of this report will be attached to the approved minutes. It was reported that a full water leak detection of the district was not completed three years ago as was thought and Russell Road extension was reported to have no leaks currently. In her report it was noticed that the Manufactured Home Park on the west side of Route 96 north has an older

meter with an extended service line. The board recommended that the meter at this Manufactured Home Park be replaced with the same size as what was installed at the Route 336 trailer park in Water District No. 3. The report also recommended that between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 a.m. a minute by minute reading of the master meter south of Somerville Road should be recorded.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to check the master meter between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 a.m., to purchase a new meter for the Manufactured Home Park on the west side of Route 96 North and to consult with Jim Bromka regarding these issues.

**Seneca Lake Water District:** The board received the check in payment for the 2013 unit charges due to this district from Town of Fayette.

**Water District No. 3:** There has been no reported issues regarding air in the water lines in this district since Larry Colton's issues were resolved.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss the ongoing litigation with regards to Water District No. 3 and invited Clerk Donna Karlsen and Fayette Supervisor Cindy Lorenzetti to remain at 7:50 p.m.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to hire MRB Engineering and to proportion their bill between the towns of Fayette and Varick according to agreement.

Supervisor Lorenzetti will contact MRB on Wednesday, October 2.

A discussion was held regarding the money owed to the Town of Fayette from Varick Water 3 Capital project in the amount of \$8,188.31, which is part of the project funds currently tied up in the ongoing litigation. Supervisor Lorenzetti requested that a letter be sent acknowledging this debt to the Town of Fayette.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to send a letter to the Town of Fayette acknowledging the payment due to Fayette Water District No. 5 Capital Project in the amount of \$8,188.31. This amount is payable from Varick Water District No. 3 Capital Project funds when the towns of Varick and Fayette's litigation against Syracuse Constructors and Seneca County is resolved.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** The contractor is working on obtaining the necessary DOT Bond and Mr. Ricci is working on the last required easement.

**Town Clerk:** A motion by Robert Bauman, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$281.58, NYS Ag & Markets: \$12, NYS Environmental Conservation: \$284.42, Total Disbursements: \$578.00.

**Supervisor's Report/Bookkeeper Report:** A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to approve the written Supervisor's Report.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to approve Amendment to the Varick Water District No. 3, Resolution 2.

**Personnel:** Michelle Andrews submitted a written report for the Summer Recreation Program.

**Assessor:** A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to approve the Assessor's written report.

Supervisor Hayssen reported that 5 people applied for the assessor's position and 2 were interviewed. He also reported that Anne Morgan is willing to continue working as assessor for the towns of Varick, Romulus, Lodi and Ovid for \$30,000 annually to be split evenly between the four towns. The Town of Covert would no longer be included. Kathy Russo initiated a discussion regarding Mrs. Morgan's interaction with the residents of the town. It was determined that the term of appointment for assessor is 6 years and an municipal agreement could be done between all four towns if Mrs. Morgan were to be appointed as assessor.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to appoint Anne Morgan as Varick Town Assessor for a term of 6 years.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen	Yes
Peter McDonald	Yes
John Saeli	Yes
Robert Bauman	Yes
Kathy Russo	Abstained
So Carried	

Mr. Hayssen reported that Al Withers has resigned from the Assessment Board of Review and will need to be replaced.

**Code Enforcement Report:** The code enforcement officer submitted his written September 2013 report.

**Minutes:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 3, 2013.

**South Seneca Ambulance:** Mr. McDonald reported that he finally received a copy of the 2011 audit that was completed for South Seneca Ambulance. The board members expressed concern on how funds received from the sale of their prior building which housed the ambulance core was spent and the three proposed optional budgets that they presented to the board.

The town board acknowledged the value of the service provided by South Seneca Ambulance, however agreed that the budgets presented by them were all excessive and they could not agree to support any of them as presented. The board reviewed the amounts that have been provided to them over the past few years under an agreement between the town and the Ambulance Core. It was suggested that no more than \$33,000 be approved for the 2014 budget and we would use some of the town's fund balance to keep the budget below the 2% cap.

Mr. Hayssen indicated that the surrounding towns have been reviewing these proposals as well and it was suggested that all the towns pay the same dollar amount per unit charge. The suggested amount was around \$63 per unit. Mr. Hayssen also noted that the number of units that will be used will be reduced from last year's units as he has separated out the service area that South Seneca Ambulance covers in the Town of Varick from North Seneca Ambulance coverage. This unit amount will be 703. Only those in South Seneca Ambulance coverage area will be assessed the unit charge.

Attorney Steve Ricchi will look into establishing legal boundaries in order to form a South Seneca Ambulance District and to comply with laws for assessing unit charges on Town and County tax bills.

**Abstract:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 10, Highway, Vouchers DAO13-067 to DAO13-77 in the amount of \$47,131.43, General, Vouchers A0013-131 to A0013-140 in the amount of \$1,272.10, Varick Water District No.1, Vouchers VW113-015 to VW113-016 in the amount of \$640.00, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS13-044 to SWS13-045 in the amount of \$79.03, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW313-020 to VW3-021 in the amount of \$518.96, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VSW13-025 to VS113-28 in the amount of \$201.20, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS13-020 to SSS13-025 in the amount of \$9,017.67

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve payment of Tim Buhl's invoice from Water District No. 4, Capital Project in the amount of \$1,794.38.

It was reported that according to Municipal Solutions, Tim Buhl has gone over several of his budget lines and they have asked him to break down his bills accordingly and adjust his budget expense lines.

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

Adelia Poormon submitted her resignation for the position of cleaning person due to time constraints as she is nearing her high school graduation and preparing for college.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to accept Adelia Poormon's resignation.

Kaylee Poormon submitted her application for employment for the position of cleaning person. It was noted that she is 14 years old, and has working papers.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to hire Kaylee Poormon for the position of cleaning person at \$8.00 per hour, with a three month probationary time period, contingent on Seneca County Personnel Office approval.

Mrs. Russo reported that bed bugs have been reported to be found in Seneca County.

There is a possible septic system problem at a residence on Ernsberger Road and this issue will be reviewed with Seneca County Health Department.

A final review and discussion of the Basic Financial Statements and Communicating Internal Control Related Matters Identified In An Audit were completed by the board.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to approve the 2011 Basic Financial Audit completed by Raymond Wager's office.

The board reviewed the 2014 Tentative Budget. A discussion of pay raises was held and it was suggested that a 3% raise in payroll be given to all employees and elected officials. The 2% cap increase in budgets was discussed and John Saeli felt the pay raises should be kept at 2%.

A motion by Robert Bauman, seconded by Peter McDonald to increase payroll by 3% to all employees and elected officials in the 2014 Tentative Budget.

A motion by John Saeli to amend the original motion and to cap the increase of payroll to 2%. This motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Hayssen called for a roll call vote on the open motion on the floor:

A motion by Robert Bauman, seconded by Peter McDonald to increase the payroll by 3% to all employees and elected officials and to include this 3% increase in the appropriate expense lines in the 2014 Tentative Budget.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen	Yes
Peter McDonald	Yes

John Saeli	No
Kathy Russo	Yes
Robert Bauman	Yes

So Carried 4 to 1

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to move the 2014 Tentative Budgets to the 2014 Preliminary Budgets.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to change the regular meeting of the Varick Town Board to November 6, 2013 and to hold a public hearing on the 2014 Preliminary Budgets at 7:00 p.m. at the Varick Town Hall.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Robert Bauman and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk