

August 5, 2014

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 Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, Village of Waterloo Water Department representative, Jamie King and Jim Bromka, Seneca County Highway Superintendent, Roy Gates, Town of Fayette Supervisor, Cindy Lorenzetti, Town of Fayette Councilman, Don Mayburry and reporter, Anita Glover. Also in attendance were Fred Conoly, Rich and Ann Olson. Absent: Highway Superintendent Richard McCulloch and Bookkeeper, Angela Testa.

Privilege of the Floor: Roy Gates reviewed the road striping on East Lake Road that was completed in 2007/2008 where a no passing zone was striped from Kennedy Road to Yale Station. At that time residents living on the road submitted complaints to the board as all the passing zones were removed which affected traffic flow and could present safety issues for walkers and bikers. Mr. Gates reported that the county since that time has obtained an updated law book which legally describes where passing zones can be placed and has striped East Lake Road from Kennedy north to Hahnel Road according to law. Mr. Hayssen reported that he had received a complaint by a resident expressing concern over the reinstated passing zones and felt it should be addressed prior to any further road striping. Mr. Saeli, who lives on and travels East Lake Road frequently, stated that there should be passing zones and cited the same reasons as was given in 2007. After further discussion, the board directed Superintendent Roy Gates to follow the updated law book for striping roads, and implement legal passing zones as directed by this book.

Don Maybury, councilman for the town of Fayette, reviewed briefly the issues the Town of Fayette had pertaining to their master meter in their Cayuga Lake Water District and requested that the master meter for Varick Water District No. 4 be calibrated once a year at the district's expense. It was noted that American Water Works also recommends calibration on an annual basis. Councilman Peter McDonald, with the support of the remaining council member, agreed to have this meter calibrated annually in the best interest of both towns.

A discussion was held regarding the legal, binding contract between the Town of Fayette and Town of Varick for the purchase of water from the Town of Fayette at a cost of 10 cents above Town of Fayette's cost from Seneca Falls. Mr. Hayssen reported that this determined amount took into consideration loss factor and transferred the cost of flushing hydrants from Fayette's Cayuga Lake Water District to Varick Water District No. 4. Also discussed was Seneca Falls' requested to Fayette to increase to a 12" water main line in their Cayuga Water District. Billing and minimum water charges were also reviewed. It was noted that the residents in both towns of Fayette and Varick within Seneca Lake Water District are satisfied with the service and costs associated to their water service.

Town of Fayette Supervisor, Cindy Lorenzetti inquired about the revenue sharing program that was discussed in regards to Varick Water District No. 3 and Fayette Water District No. 5. Supervisor Lorenzetti stated that their Water District No. 5 has only a few thousand dollars in their bank account and assumed Varick Water District No. 3 was in no better shape. Mr. Hayssen stated that he hoped the Town of Fayette Water District No. 5 has more money than that, as they still owe Seneca County Water District thousands of dollars for purchased water.

Councilman John Saeli stated that a revenue sharing program was discussed by the town of Varick board in December of 2013 and resolution was passed by this board pertaining to this program. This resolution was then rescinded in March 2014 after further consideration and in light of the actions by the Town of Fayette board withholding the debt payment owed from the Town of Fayette to Seneca Lake Water District. It was also rescinded based on the addendum in this motion that a joint meeting be held between the Varick Town Board and the Fayette Town Board which never took place and no agreement between the two towns was established. This meeting had been requested to be held by Supervisor Hayssen and Councilman McDonald to the Fayette supervisor and council members several times, with no response from them.

Supervisor Lorenzetti responded that she had within the last month requested a joint meeting but Supervisor Hayssen wasn't available to meet and she asked him to provide a better time. Supervisor Hayssen stated that Supervisor Lorenzetti knew the time she set was not conducive to his work schedule and she would not provide him with a requested agenda of items she wanted to discuss. Supervisor Hayssen had also inquired in his correspondence as to when the Town of Fayette would begin supplying Varick Water District No. 4 with water now that the meter was recalibrated and passed inspection and all their demands had been met. In an emailed response to his inquiry Supervisor Lorenzetti stated "no meeting, no water".

Supervisor Lorenzetti went on to demand a resolution from the Varick Board agreeing to recalibrate the master meter on an annual basis and again threatened to not turn on the water until said resolution was made.

Jamie King from the Village of Waterloo reported that the installation design for the master meter and placement of valves will require the water main be shut down during recalibration. He did suggest a way to redesign the system at additional cost to the district which would allow recalibration to take place without shutting the water down. He also suggested that recalibration could be done in the middle of the night when water usage is minimal.

Supervisor Lorenzetti reintroduced the contract between the two towns for the purchase of water by Water District No. 4 reiterated that no water will be turned on to Water District 4 without the requested resolution pertaining to field calibration of the master meter.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Richard Peterson to field calibrate Water District No. 4 master meter on an annual basis expensed to this district.

Mr. Hayssen reiterated that this request for recalibration has nothing to do with the binding agreement for purchase of water.

Attorney Midiri stated it is not advisable to make a resolution under a threat. That if a resolution is made, it should be done so because it is beneficial to the people and in the best interest of the district.

Peter McDonald rescinded the motion on the table and based on Attorney Midiri's advice the following motion was made:

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to field calibrate Water District No. 4 master meter on an annual basis based on the manufacturer recommendations and in the best interest of the residents within the district.

Jim Bromka submitted his resignation as the NYS Certified Operator for the town of Varick water districts effective the end of August, citing his desire to spend more time with his grandchildren. He stated that he would be willing to train the person who takes over for him through September if necessary. The board accepted his resignation with regret and thanked him for his service.

Rick Conoly questioned the purchase of initial supplies being used by Water District No. 4. Supervisor Hayssen explained that the supplies purchased were with funds loaned to Water District No. 4 from Seneca Lake Water District. The board is currently working with Municipal Solutions and Rural Development to obtain grant funds for these supplies. Quotes obtained prior to the purchase of these items have been submitted to Rural Development and met the requirements for obtaining grant funds. Mr. Hayssen went on to explain the town has standardized their equipment with Badger meters and corresponding transponders supplied by a sole distributor for this area, Blair Supply.

Highway: Roy Gates reported that the scheduled resurfacing of Russell Road by Varick Superintendent Rick McCulloch has been cancelled for this year due to the uncertainty of repair work to the water line along that road. Since the lines run along the length of this road, it was felt by the board paving work could continue as scheduled if approved by Mr. McCulloch.

Water District No. 1: Discussion was held regarding the necessity to complete repair work to the water line on Russell Street. It was reported that no leak was detected when Cindy Stephen performed a leak detection survey within the last year. Prior to this survey, the town was informed by the county that the water line along this road was leaking and based on this information, the county purchased the required parts in order to complete this repair. As there now seems to be a question as to whether leaks exist, it was suggested by Jim Bromka that a leak detection be completed for this district. The board approved and directed Jim Bromka to schedule the leak detection with Cindy Stephen.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mrs. Karlsen reported that she received a call from Justin McElroy who stated that he had a water leak under his porch that he was not aware of and had received notification from the Village of Waterloo of a possible leak as his last meter read resulted in a bill amounting to \$3,295. He inquired if there was anything the town could do to adjust the amount he owed. The board reviewed similar instances and the policy the board has set regarding issues such as these and determined that according to what has been done in the past, Mr. McElroy would be responsible for his bill in full. A payment plan could be implemented and any outstanding balances will not be assessed to his Town and County tax bill as long as he continues to make payments.

Varick Water District No. 3: Supervisor, Cindy Lorenzetti would like hold a joint meeting pertaining to Revenue Sharing. Currently, the town of Varick board expressed no interested in continuing further discussion regarding the proposed Revenue Sharing program and it was suggested that if Fayette Water District No. 5 is in poor financial shape, they could borrow funds from one of their other districts.

Mr. Hayssen reported that Larry Colton installed an air release system at a cost of approximately \$100 which should address the air he is getting in his water based heating system from the town's water main. The cost of this repair should be split according to percentages with Fayette Water District No. 5 and Mrs. Karlsen was directed by Fayette Supervisor Lorenzetti to send their portion of the bill to their town's bookkeeper.

Varick Water District No. 4: Mr. and Mrs. Olson reviewed some concerns regarding restoration work they feel needs to be completed by the contractor. In order to prepare a punch list for the contractor, it was requested that all concerns be addressed to the Town Clerk for submittal to the engineer.

Supervisor Hayssen presented a copy of Global Water Specialist LLC test results of the master meter stating that the meter meets AWWA standards. He then proceeded to ask Supervisor Lorenzetti when the Town of Fayette will turn the water on which would allow Varick Water District No. 4 consumers to begin connecting. Supervisor Lorenzetti and Councilman Mayburry agreed to notify their Water Maintainer, Bill Trout, that the water valve could be turned on allowing Varick Water District No. 4 water.

The board reviewed Change Orders 1 through 5 as submitted by Tim Buhl, project engineer.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to approve Change Orders 1 through 5 as submitted by Engineer Tim Buhl.

The board received five applications for the open position of assistant inspector for newly installed water lines in Varick Water District No. 4. Mr. Saeli reported that one of the applicants, Timothy Bryan, notified him and withdrew his application, which left four for the board to review in executive session at the end of the meeting.

Supervisor Hayssen and Water Maintainer Ben Karlsen will provide a training session for the newly hired inspectors. The board discussed the rate of pay to complete these inspections and noted that depending on which district, an hourly rate or a flat rate have been established in the past. After some discussion the board agreed on the following:

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to pay a \$50 flat rate per inspection with no reimbursement for mileage.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Nothing to report

Varick Sewer District No. 2: John Saeli reported that Bill Kolbeck scrapped four pumps that were too costly to repair. Four replacement pumps were purchased from Seiwert in the amount of \$1,681 each.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that she had received a phone call a year ago and again just recently regarding a grinder pump that was making a loud noise and over the past year has gotten progressively worse. Bill Kolbeck had reported that the bearings were going bad in it, but the pump was still working and he didn't want to pull it until it completely failed. The residents called again and asked if there was anything that could be done as the neighbors were now complaining it was waking them up during the night whenever it turned on. Supervisor Hayssen acknowledged the cost of making repairs to the pumps, but also stated that people are paying an O/M fee on their bills quarterly to address such issues and are due good customer service. The board agreed and Mr. Saeli will contact Mr. Kolbeck and have him change the couple grinder pumps that he has already received complaints on with bearings that are failing.

Further research will be done into the cost and performance of the Gould's manufactured pumps.

Code Enforcement Report: Provided a written report for July 2014.

Zoning Board: It was noted that another public hearing must be held prior to approving any zoning code amendments. This public hearing is tentatively scheduled to be held prior to the September town board meeting.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report: Supervisor: \$455, New York State Ag & Markets: \$36, Total Disbursements: \$491.

Bookkeepers Report: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the bookkeeper's report.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve an interfund transfer of \$9,514.24 from Seneca Lake Water District to Varick Water District No. 4 to purchase the remaining supplies to be supplied by the town for initial home owner water line installation.

Personnel: Mrs. Russo reported that Seneca County Youth Bureau representative have praised the summer recreation program.

Minutes: A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 1, 2014.

New Business, Old Business & Correspondence:

Mr. Saeli reported that the new furnace installation is progressing with E & V Energy.

Michael Nozzolio's notified the board in writing that the town had received \$50,000 in state grant funds from the New York State Economic Development allowing the Town to complete important projects which will directly benefit residents in the Town. The Town will be receiving a contract from this office in the near future to begin the necessary process to receive the state assistance. Mr. Haysen has the list of suggested items submitted for use of these funds filed with the grant application.

Mr. Saeli reported that he received an email from Allen Gelatt pertaining to the Musselman Triathlon complaining the use of Town of Varick roads by runners and bicyclists slowed up traffic flow. Mr. Saeli also cited safety issues. The board acknowledged the revenue this event generates in Seneca County and the short period of time the roads are being used once a year for this event. It was recommended that if any safety issues exist they should be brought to the attention of the event planners.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to enter into executive session to address personnel issues at 9:10 p.m.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to come out of executive session at 9:50 p.m.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried to hire Tim Dorn, and Robert Kayser to assist the water maintainer in performing inspections of newly installed water lines in Water District No. 4.

Mrs. Russo will notify the individuals and provide them with the flat rate of pay.

Abstract: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to approve Abstract No. 8, General Fund, Vouchers A0014-117 to A0014-129 in the amount of \$1,006.97, Highway, Vouchers DAO0014-63 to DAO0014-50 in the amount of \$2,871.16, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS114-23 to VS114-27 in the amount of \$2,298.85, Varick Sewer No. 2, SSS14-17 to SSS14-20 in the amount of \$66,675, Varick Water District No. 1, VW114-008 to VW114-009 in the amount of \$5,647.58, Seneca Lake Water, Vouchers SWS14-032 to SWS034 in the amount of \$91,323.27, Varick Water 3, Vouchers VW214-17 to VW314-20 in the amount of \$\$3,969.73, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW414-002 to VW414-006 in the amount of \$12,854.30.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve payment of the following invoice from Water District No. 4, Capital Fund:

Midey, Mirras & Ricci \$66.82

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to adjourn the regular board meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk