

May 5, 2015

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 Todd Horton, John Saeli, Kathy Russo and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angel Testa, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch and Assessor, Anne Morgan, reporter for the Ovid Gazette, Aneta Glover.

Petitioners to Address the Board: None.

**Assessor:** Anne Morgan reported that Mineral Run has not reported the gas line values as of this meeting, so the Tentative Rolls reflects last year's assessments. She presented to the board a chart from the NYS Department of Taxation and Finance Historical Final Unit of Production Values for Oil and Gas Production showing a decline in production values from 2014 of \$6.08/MCF to 2015 of \$2.37/MCF. As the assessed value of these wells is based on the value of gas pulled from the ground, the result will be a significant decrease in assessed value for these properties which will affect the town's tax base. She is anticipating a 38% decrease. She is hoping to have the final figures in time for filing of the final rolls. She also reported that the Equalization rate for 2015 is 89%.

**Highway:** Mr. McCulloch reported that the International was delivered in time for the Palmyra auction which will be held Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Full disclosure of any issues the department was aware of was given at the time of delivery.

Mr. McCulloch also reported that Spring and Fall Clean-Up has been scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup> through May 30<sup>th</sup> and October 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>. Mr. McCulloch scheduled the Spring Clean Up dates to better accommodate Lyons Road Trash availability as the original dates conflicted with work they perform for Hobart & William Smith Colleges. Mr. McCulloch reported that he is very pleased with the service the town receives from Lyons Road Trash which makes these clean-up days run smoothly.

**Varick Water District No. 1:** Mr. Hayssen reviewed the water bill submitted by the County and noted that they were charging for water loss, but recognized that the master meter and residents' meters were not read at the same time again, so the water loss would be an inaccurate number. This bill is being held until further discussion with the county can be held.

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Mr. Hayssen reported that the \$50,000 in grant funds could not be used for road work and suggested the board consider using these funds with an additional \$50,000 from Seneca Lake Water District to run a new water main up Yale Farm Road. A survey was done many years ago with some interest for water from the residents. The main objective for this extension is to eventually provide water from Seneca Lake Water District to District No. 3, eliminating the need to purchase water from Seneca County water districts at a higher rate. He is suggesting that the town go out for bid to obtain a cost to see how far this line could be extended using the \$100,000 and suggested that we include in this bid the replacement of the bolts.

Mr. Saeli reported that Pete Keefer is willing to complete the repair of these bolts at a cost of \$95 per hour for a man and equipment plus one employee at \$18 an hours. The board questioned again whether prevailing wages would have to be paid and also requested that Mr. Keefer provide a firm price to complete the work, and not base it on an hourly rate. Mr. Saeli noted that Mr. Keefer has never completed this type of repair, that it would be a learning curve and wouldn't be prepared to give a firm price at this time.

Mr. Hayssen also reported that Seneca County Water Districts do not pay a debt service fee and yet they benefit from the water line that our residents are paying for through a unit charge assessed on their town and county tax bills that goes to paying off the loan for this water main. He suggested that the board consider raising the water rate 20 cents per thousand gallons, remove the debt service fee from the tax bills, and use this increase in water charge to pay the debt for this line. The board will give this some consideration.

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Mr. Hayssen reported that he received a phone call from Pat Nicoletta, attorney for the towns, asking if it would be possible for Hayssen Construction to provide equipment and materials to include a dump truck, 2 tons of stone, roll of 6" pipe and fittings at 10:00 on a Friday morning in order to complete work agreed to in the settlement between the towns and Syracuse Constructors. This service and supplies were provided for them. Mr. Hayssen reported that the final settlement check for Syracuse Constructors has been sent to the attorney for disbursement; however, Mr. Hayssen recommended to the board that \$2,000 be held back until the town is satisfied with the restoration work and to make sure the grass that was just planted grows and is acceptable to the homeowners. He also reported that the Nicoletta was researching some other issues he may be of concern.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to retain \$2,000 from the agreed final payment to Syracuse Constructors until the board is satisfied with the recently completed land restoration and planting of grass.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** The master meter has been properly grounded and a window cut into the cover so the meter can be read without accessing it. It has been programmed to read bi-directionally; tested and proven that water does flow both ways and will be billed accordingly. A walk-through will be done with the contractor, Tim Buhl and Mr. Hayssen to review restoration and any outstanding issued prior to final completion of this project.

**Varick Sewer District No. 1:** Nothing to report.

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

**Supervisor's Report:** A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's Report.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor:\$305, NYS Ag & Markets: \$25, Total Disbursements: \$330.

**Summer Recreation Program:** Mrs. Russo reported that applications are being distributed through the school and submitted to the Seneca County Personnel office for recreation positions and the Romulus Central School campus is available for the recreation program this year.

**Dog Control Officer's Report:** Mr. McCann provided a written first quarter report for the board's review. Mr. Hayssen reported that he did contact Mr. McCann regarding Erica Wilson's complaint about their neighbor's dogs on Deal Road. Complaints regarding a dog on Cayuga Street which is allowed to run free were also discussed.

**Planning Board:** Mr. Horton reported that the planning board has not addressed a proposed nuisance law, as they are trying to wrap up the work on cluster zoning and zoning for the depot property at this time.

Town of Romulus will be holding a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. B of the Year 2015 amending the zoning ordinance for the Town of Romulus pertaining to the former Seneca Army Depot property on May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

**Minutes:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 7, 2015.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Mr. Colton will be out of town from May 7<sup>th</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup> and it was recommended that any building permit requests be forwarded to the planning board for approval until he returns.

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

A discussion was held regarding the county billing sewage treatment based off of water usage. It was recommended that if the county chooses to bill off of water, they should be responsible to do the water billing. The board questioned again how the county was going to bill those who are either not hooked to a municipal water source or have access to municipal water and the board is not in favor of the county billing this way.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and to so carried unanimously to have the Varick Town Board go on record opposing Seneca County Sewer 1 billing by water gallons used and refuse to initiate such billing.

A copy of this motion should be sent to the Seneca County Board of Supervisors.

Stephen Ricci wrote a letter to the IDA on behalf of the Town of Varick advising them that the Varick Town Board is interested in acquiring the road formerly known and

identified as County Road 135 owned by the Seneca County IDA and requested a proposed draft Memorandum of Understanding from the IDA.

**Abstract:** A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 5, General, Vouchers VA0015-073 to VAO15081 in the amount of \$1,460.56, Highway, Vouchers DAO15-035 to DA15-38 in the amount of \$4,264.98, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW115-008 in the amount of \$17.00, Seneca Lake Water District, SWS15-018 to SWS15-019 in the amount of \$66,383.39, Varick Water District No. 3, VW315-007 to VW315-008 in the amount of \$131.27, Varick Water District No. 4, VW415-011 in the amount of \$17.00, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS115-013 VS115-14 in the amount of \$314.96, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS15-021 to SSS15-022 in the amount of \$6,295,

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve payment from Varick Water District No. 4 Capital Project:

Donna Karlsen: Petty Cash                      \$30.78

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:20

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk