

October 4, 2016

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Council Members Todd Horton, Tom Fox, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town Joe Midiri, Code Enforcement Officer Richard McCulloch, Planning Board member Barry Somerville, Ovid Gazette reporter, Aneta Glover. Absent: Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch.

**Planning Board:** Mr. Somerville reported that they are still working on the letter to be sent pertaining to the town's subdivision regulations and for the final review of the mailing list to be completed by the town attorney. They are also updating the subdivision application.

Mr. Somerville reported that Bill Squires has resigned from the Planning Board. He indicated in his letter of resignation that he is planning extensive travel and other activities that will make his participation on this board irregular. The planning board is considering people for his replacement and will make a recommendation to the town board.

A discussion was held pertaining to who would be responsible for receiving sub-division applications. It was determined that all applicants be directed to the Planning Board for direction and submittal of these forms.

**Highway:** No report.

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

**Code Enforcement:** Richard McCulloch reported that Larry Colton questioned him about building permits for Greg McNeely. Mr. Colton felt Mr. McNeely was in violation of the zoning code pertaining to a barn that was built, as he thinks the original use of the barn at the time of the building permit submittal has changed. Mr. McCulloch was unable to find anything in the code that pertained to this issue and wanted to confirm this with the board. Mr. Somerville didn't believe the zoning code regulated changes in use and Mr. Midiri would look into this for Mr. McCulloch and report back to him. In the mean time, Mr. McCulloch has also contacted the county code enforcement office for their interpretation as well.

Mr. McCulloch also submitted a written code enforcement report listing the building permits issued in the month of September.

It was reported that Phil Knapp was concerned about the accumulation of junk on property north of the VanHorn property. It was also reported that there has been no resolution to Sonya Wirth's sub-division request as of this meeting.

**Varick Water District No. 1:** No report

**Seneca Lake Water District:** No report

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Mr. Hayssen reported that Fayette Water District 5 has been flushing the water main.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** It was noted that Mr. Hayssen still hasn't received a key to access the town's master meter.

**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: \$160, NYS Ag & Markets: \$26; Total Disbursements: \$186.00

Mrs. Karlsen reported that Judge Ettman sent her an email regarding the JCAP grant funds he received for the installation of a security system. He has only received one bid to do the installation of this system from Rick Testa in the amount of \$1,600 and will be contracting with him to complete this work.

**Minutes:** A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of September 6, 2016.

**Personnel:** Michelle Andrews hopes to have a written report with a photo album for the November meeting of this year's summer recreation program.

**Assessor:** Mr. Fox reported that he attended the budget workshop for the assessor's budget. He questioned her as to what criteria and knowledge she would recommend for a person to serve on the Assessment Board of Appeals. Mrs. Morgan recommended that they should have knowledge pertaining to properties within the town, availability to attend trainings and to be present on Grievance Day and the ability to work as part of a board. She indicated that the vacancy on this board can be reviewed in January.

**Abstract:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 10, General, Vouchers A0016-157 to A0016-161 in the amount of \$463.83, Highway, Vouchers DA016-067 to AA016-073 in the amount of \$25,723.71, Varick Water District No. 1, VW116-015 to VW116-016 in the amount of \$75, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS16-038 to SWS16-039 in the amount of \$75, Varick Water District 3, Vouchers VW316-020 to VW316-021 in the amount of \$75, Varick Water District No. 4, VW416-031 in the amount of \$25, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS116-032 in the amount of \$148.50, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS16-029 to SSS16-031 in the amount of \$1,709.95.

**Old Business, New Business & Correspondence:** Mr. Fox reported that he tried numerous times to contact a representative of the Cayuga Lake Watershed regarding the 2016 annual membership fee of \$900. The board was interested in obtaining information

as to what services are provided to the town under this membership but Mr. Fox never received a response from them. The board now decided not to pay the membership fee.

**Depot Property:** It was reported that there are no new updates pertaining to this property and the closing has not taken place as of this date.

**2017 Budget:**

The board received a copy of the 2017 Tentative Budget which they reviewed. Mr. Hayssen informed the board that the town's workman's compensation insurance premium was increased substantially due to a claim by one of Fayette's fire chiefs two years ago when he was injured providing mutual aid to the Ovid Fire Department at the time of the downtown Ovid fire. Mr. Hayssen is researching what department would be responsible for insurance coverage on a mutual aid fire call. He is also researching alternative assessment of this premium. He recognized in reviewing previous payments, that the town may have overpaid their portion of the workman's comp premium and Joe Midiri will look into the feasibility of recouping these overpayments.

Mr. Hayssen indicated that the budget reflects a 3% pay increase in salaries. He also noted the highway budget reflects an increase in machinery for the purchase of a tractor and that the remaining budgetary lines remained basically the same as the 2016 budget. South Seneca Ambulance submitted their 2017 budget which reflected an approximate 15% increase. The effected town supervisors discussed this increase and decided to use the 2016 budget figure which is reflected in our 2017 budget. Mr. Hayssen did find out later that the Ovid supervisor did put into their budget the 2017 amount from the ambulance. He also noted that the judge would like an increase in the court clerk's salary and asked for an expense line increase of \$880 which is not included in the tentative budget.

Mrs. Russo had obtained salaries from surrounding towns and compared them to the salaries in the town of Varick. It was noted that it would be easier for the board to compare salaries if they were all listed under one expense line in the budget. Mrs. Testa explained that the salaries need to be separated in the budget in order to meet AUD requirements, but that she can provide a summary sheet listing all the salaries for the board's review. The board also discussed establishing a base salary for town positions for newly elected official and employees, but it was unclear if this would be feasible to do. It was also noted that it would be very difficult to compare elected official's pay scales without acknowledging that some elected officials take on more responsibility than what is stipulated under town law.

Discussion was held regarding the \$50,000 Economic Grant funds that we have not designated yet. If they are still available, Mr. Hayssen suggested putting these funds toward a new town hall building. It was also suggested that there are funds available though the unified court system which might be able to be used as well. It was recommended that Judge Ettman be asked to attend the November board meeting to discuss his budget request and the unified court system grants. Mr. Hayssen reported that Mr. Ricci is still looking into the availability of the Economic Grant for the town.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to move the 2017 Tentative budgets to 2017 Preliminary budgets and hold a public hearing on said budgets November 1, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk