

August 1, 2017

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, Tom Fox, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper Angel Testa, Highway Superintendent Richard McCulloch and Ovid Gazette reporter Aneta Glover.

**Abstract:** A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 8, General Vouchers A0017-111 to A0017-119 in the amount of - \$2445.73, Highway, Vouchers DA017 to DA017-52 in the amount of \$3787.06, Varick Water District No. 1, Voucher VW117-011 in the amount of \$25, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS17-037 to SWS17-040 in the amount of \$91,486.37, Varick Water District No. 3, Voucher VW317-012 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, Voucher VW417-027 in the amount of \$25, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Voucher VS117-028 in the amount of \$148.50, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS17-019 to SSS17-025 in the amount of \$64,332.01.

**Highway:** Richard McCulloch resurfaced the lower part of Yale Farm Road using Dalrymple's new paving crew. The new surface that was put down should last longer and cost approximately \$12,000 more than if he were to put down the same current surface.

Mr. McCulloch also reported that with the cutbacks in spending and manpower at the county, it is becoming more difficult to get county assistance and equipment needed to maintain the roads, culverts and ditches. He presented a quote from Tracey Road Equipment for the proposed purchase of a New Holland Excavator base with long arm assembly with a list price of \$89,694, but with municipal pricing the cost to the town would be \$70,571. He also reported that the town could do a lease to own if they would like to try the equipment out first. It was also noted that this equipment would also be useful for the water and sewer departments. Mr. Hayssen questioned if the excavator was large enough to complete the work being required of it and Mr. Horton asked for further specification to be considered. Mr. McCulloch reported that according to the information he has been provided, this machine meets the specifications asked for and would be easy to transport when needed. He also would like to purchase a trailer and will pursue pricing for this as well as further information on the excavator provided the board is considering this purchase. Sharing of municipal equipment was discussed and it was noted that this isn't always in the best interest of the purchasing municipality.

A brief discussion was held regarding the county giving back town roads for plowing and salting during the winter months that the county currently is maintaining. It has been discussed that the county would pay a flat fee to the towns to do so. Mr. McCulloch felt that this would not save the taxpayers any money as the town does not have the trucks and equipment or the operators to do this. It would require the Town of Varick to purchase another plow truck and to employ part time trained and knowledgeable people to plow, adding costs to payroll.

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

**Code Enforcement Officer:** Mr. Hayssen reported that Tim Dorn received complaints from three different people in different areas of the town regarding clutter on neighboring properties and wanted some direction from the board as to how to handle these matters. The town attorney will review the town code and contact Mr. Dorn with his recommendations.

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

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Mr. Hayssen reported Seneca County Water 1 paid \$156,900.26 toward their past-due water bill. They still have approximately \$90,000 outstanding. He reported the new meter the county was installing still hasn't been installed as of this date.

**Varick Water District No. 3:** He reported that Mr. Caffola ordered the new meter for this district but since this company is going out of business and company the meter is coming from will not send it in fear they would not get paid. The meter has since been ordered through another company.

Mr. Hayssen was approached from another water carrier inquiring if he can purchase water from the town as Willy's Water does. This water carrier does not own a metering system so Mr. Hayssen will contact the Town of Fayette to see if we can use their meter or will inquire if they would be interested in selling water to this carrier.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** Nothing to report.

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

**Sewer District No. 2:** Mr. Hayssen reported that work was to be done on the air release valves, however due to heavy rains and the infiltration of ground water, they were unable to pump the water from the tanks to complete the work at that time. It was noted the sewer district has not received any billing for the pumping of sewage as of this date. This work will be rescheduled whether permitting.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report: Supervisor: \$362.50, NYS Ag & Markets: \$16, State Health Dept.: \$22.50, Total Disbursements: \$401.

**Dog Control Officer:** Submitted a written report for March 1 through June 30, 2017 which will be filed in the minute book.

**Zoning Board:** Attorney Joe Midiri reported that after speaking to the Association of Towns, the town does not have the authority to regulate docks and moorings now. The town hasn't completed the necessary paperwork to do so and does not appear on the list of towns that do. He contacted Senator Helming's office to find out what he needs to do to get the town on this list and is waiting from a response from her.

**Minutes:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of July 5, 2017.

**Old Business, New Business, Correspondence:**

**Sharing of Town Court Justice:** Attorney Joe Midiri consulted with Attorney Steve Getman, who provided him with information and the process taken by the towns of Ovid and Lodi to conduct their courts with one judge presiding. Attorney Getman reported that this system is working very well for both town courts. Further discussion with the Town of Fayette will need to be held prior to moving forward with proposal.

Mr. Hayssen reported that although Judge Ettman's intention was to resign the end of July, he has withdrawn his resignation and will be able to fulfill his term of office until December 31, 2017, but will be out of his office on vacation from December 15 to the end of his term. A discussion was held regarding Jeff Hogue who is the only one on the ballot at this time and it is anticipated he will become the town's judge beginning January 1, 2017. Attorney Midiri reported that although he is an attorney, it is required of him to attend judge training.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to enter into executive session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss personnel issues; the town attorney, town clerk and bookkeeper are invited to stay.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:05 p.m.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk