

September 5, 2017

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Richard Peterson at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were Supervisor Robert Hayssen, Board Members, Todd Horton, Tom Foxx, and Kathy Russo, Town Clerk Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper Angela Testa, Assessor Anne Morgan, Attorney for the Town Joe Midiri, Ovid Gazette reporter Anita Glover, South Seneca Ambulance representatives Jason Henderson, Dave Manenke and Ashley Breese. Absent: Highway Superintendent: Richard McCulloch

Petitioners to Address the Board: South Seneca Ambulance president, Jason Henderson presented their 2017 Budget Proposal for 2018 and contract. He reported that they are in the process of selling two of their older ambulances that are costing more in maintenance each year and will continue to try to do an ambulance rotation every nine years of service life. With a service fleet of no more than three ambulances, that would mean rotating one out every three years. He reported they are continuing to research avenues to increase revenue in order to keep tax payer contributions to a minimal. Mr. Henderson reported that the proposed budget reflects a 3% increase over the 2017 budget. Supervisor Hayssen and the board will review the figures and report back to Mr. Henderson.

Abstract: A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract 9, General, Vouchers A0017-125 to A0017-134 in the amount of \$3,606.13, Highway, Vouchers DA017-053 to DA017-60 in the amount of \$107,174.68, Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW117-014 to VW117-16 in the amount of \$5,667.54, Seneca Lake Water District, SWS17-044 to SWS17-046 in the amount of \$911.01, Varick Water District 3, Vouchers VW317-014 to VW317-016 in the amount of \$5,292.81, Varick Water District No. 4, VW417-030 to VW417-033 in the amount of \$2,620.12, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS117-031 to VS117-032 in the amount of \$2,555.59, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS17-026 to SSS17-030 in the amount of \$11,125.62.

Highway: Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch provided a quote and specifications pertaining to the New Holland Excavator for the board's review and consideration in his absence of this meeting. Mrs. Karlsen informed the board on Mr. McCulloch's behalf that Tracey Road Equipment has this piece of equipment in stock at a quoted price of \$70,571, original list price of \$89,694. Mrs. Testa also reported that Mr. McCulloch had requested that she confirm that the highway fund balance had the funds to purchase this equipment.

The board considered alternate options to owning this piece of equipment to include municipal sharing, rental and hiring out of services. The board is requesting that Mr. McCulloch provide them with estimated utilization options and hours of use.

A discussion was held regarding municipal sharing of equipment. Mr. Fox will try to arrange a meeting with the towns of Fayette, Varick and Romulus to get input from the highway Superintendents and boards as to their thoughts regarding the sharing of equipment.

Supervisor Hayssen reported that a public hearing will be held he thought on September 13th at 5:30 p.m. at the county office building where John Sheppard will do a presentation regarding

shared services in the county. Mr. Sheppard is proposing that the towns take over the plowing and winter maintenance of the roads the county is currently maintaining.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's report.

Code Enforcement: Joe Midiri reviewed the steps to be taken for a violation of a code, but did not contact Tim Dorn to clarify any questions he had regarding compliance and clarity of the code as of this date. Attorney Midiri will review the code and contact Mr. Dorn.

Varick Water District No. 1: The board has for payment the second quarter billing from Seneca County Water District No. 1. The board will again just pay water usage based on consumer usage, which was noted to be higher than what the county was billing for. This is now two quarters in a row that this has occurred. The town of Romulus is also paying their bill based on consumer water usage.

Seneca Lake Water District: Jim Bromka of the Village of Waterloo reported to Supervisor Hayssen that the newly installed county meter appears to be reading accurately. Mr. Hayssen was not provided a key to this meter, and noted that the viewing screen was blackened out, but was eventually allowed access to read the meter.

Water District No. 3: The new meter is still not in place. This district also received Seneca County Water District No. 1 second quarter water billing which showed almost as much water loss as what was billed to the consumers. This district will only pay for gallons of water used as indicated by consumer billing. The Town of Fayette will do likewise.

Water District No. 4: Nothing to report.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Nothing to report

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Hayssen reported that it took two tankers in order to pump down the pump station to replace the pump. Blue Herring replaced all but one air relief valve south of the pump station and five or six north of the pump station. They will also train how to flush and maintain the valves.

Personnel: Nothing to report.

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: \$267.50, NYS Ag & Markets: \$22, State Health Department: \$22.50, Total Disbursements: \$312.00.

Zoning Board: Todd Horton noted that if Chairman Jeff Hogue is elected as Town Justice, he will not be able to serve on the zoning board, creating a vacancy the first of the year.

Assessor: Anne Morgan reported that the school bills are out and she is receiving calls pertaining to the revised STAR program. She noted new applicants of recently purchased property will receive checks from Taxation and Finance in Albany for STAR exemptions.

She reported that deed transfers are not up to date as they are coming out of the county at a slow rate. Addresses and updated escrows are completed. She reported that she will be working on the 2018 budget and looks forward to Mr. Fox's participation on Varick's behalf. She also reported that the depot's reassessment will be an ongoing development that is very time consuming.

Minutes: A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of August 1, 2017.

Old Business, New Business and Correspondence:

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on behalf of the Urban Forestry Program is asking for the town to complete and return a municipal survey to aid DEC in determining municipality readiness regarding managing public and private trees in the wake of Emerald Ash Borer infestation in Seneca County. It was noted that an infestation was found in the town of Ovid this spring. Mrs. Karlsen will review the survey and attempt to complete and return.

Mr. Hayssen presented an email from Earl Martin, who is currently leasing the depot property, requesting the town's support in developing a 15 MW solar energy project at the bunker area of the FASD, directly located below the White Deer Park. The project will use about 100 acres of the property and will not increase demand for any town services. Mr. Hayssen had requested Jim Falsetti of BQ Energy present this project to the board prior to the town sending in a letter of support which was reported to be due by September 1. Jim Falsetti contacted Mr. Hayssen on September 3rd and said he would be unable to attend the September 5th meeting and indicated he would reschedule for the October or November meeting. No letter of support was issued at this time. Mrs. Morgan noted that if this project was approved, the land would be 100% tax exempt and to keep her updated on where this project stands.

Mr. Hayssen also received an email from John Slattery on behalf of Pamela Helming announcing additional funding for Statewide Economic Development and Urban Revitalization of \$80 million to be made available for Round 5 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative. Mr. Hayssen forwarded this information to Tim Buhl.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to have Tim Buhl complete the application for Statewide Economic Development and Urban Revitalization of \$80 million to be made available for Round 5 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that the easements for property currently owned by William Mulvey parcel number 01-1-24.1 have been filed with the Seneca County Clerk for Seneca Lake Water District and Varick Sewer District No. 2.

Mr. Midiri received the fully executed Franchise Renewal Agreement between the Town of Varick and Time Warner Cable Northeast LLC (locally known as Charter Communications) for the town's file. This will be filed with the Town Clerk.

Mr. Midiri reported that he has received two email communications from Senator Helming's office who is introducing legislation in the beginning of 2018 so that the Town of Varick can regulate docks and moorings. He will continue to pursue this legislation through emails to the Senator's office.

All paperwork has been submitted to DASNY for funding of the addition to the town hall.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried to enter into Executive Session with no action to be taken at 8:20 p.m.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to come out of Executive Session at 8:35 p.m.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to adjourn the regular meeting of the Varick town board at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk