

December 3, 2019

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 Councilmen Richard Peterson, Eric Riegel and Tom Fox, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent Elect, Ben Freier, Water Operator, Ben Karlsen and the attorney for the town, Joe Midiri. Also present were Ricky McCulloch and Nancy Rose-Ritter.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Ricky McCulloch and Nancy Rose-Ritter introduced themselves to the board and reported that they had sent in letters of interest to the board for them to be considered for the vacancy as a council person on the town board. Mr. Hayssen indicated that this position can remain vacant or can be filled by an appointment by the town board until it is put up for vote in November 2020 elections.

Ms. Ritter reported that she has lived on Yale Farm Road for nearly 20 years and received a certificate in Trauma Counseling from the University of Buffalo. She raised her three children in Schuyler county while working for almost 10 years at Cornell University's Health Center in Ithaca and has served on the Board of Directors for several area nonprofit organizations. She stated that she would like to get more involved with her community and would like to see the town board with more diversity to include Democrats and women.

Supervisor Hayssen noted that the town board consists of members elected by the town's people and that previously Democrats and woman have been elected to serve as board members. He reviewed the current Planning and Zoning Board members who have been appointed by the town board to serve as advisory committees and pointed out that both these member appointed boards are chaired by woman and consist of both democrats and republicans and reside in all areas of the township.

Richard McCulloch introduced himself as a life-long resident of the Town of Varick and attended college for Political Science. He served as the town's Code Enforcement Officer for a year and a half and is currently serving as a member on the Republican committee. He reported that he has been attending town board meetings for the past few years and has learned a lot about the operation of the town and its multiple water and sewer districts. Mr. Hayssen also reminded the board of the miscellaneous volunteer work Mr. McCulloch has done for the town in his profession as a contractor. Mr. McCulloch thanked the board for their time and considering him for this vacancy.

Mr. Hayssen thanked Mr. McCulloch and Ms. Ritter for their interest in the board vacancy and indicated that the board will be making an appointment at their end of year meeting.

Abstract: A motion by Eric Rigel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 12, General, Vouchers A00119-201 to A0019-211 in the amount of \$4,574.34, Highway, DAO19-74 to DAO19-79 in the amount of \$5,230.01, Varick Water District No. 1, Voucher VW119-020 in the amount of \$50, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS19-09 to SWS19-96 in the amount of \$51,461.55, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW319-020 in the amount of \$50, Varick Water District No. 4, VW419-047 to VW419-049 in the amount of \$2,694.56, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS119-047 in the amount of \$550.80, Varick Sewer

District No. 2, SSS19-034 in the amount of \$1,224, Building Addition, capital Project, HO19-010 to HO19-013 in the amount of \$1,011.46.

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

Highway: Mr. Hayssen reported Deputy Highway Superintendent Kris Karlsen did a great job salting and sanding the roads during the last snow storm with the help of Ben Karlsen and Ben Freier. The board discussed the appointment for the vacant position of Highway Superintendent and made the following appointment:

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to appoint Highway Superintendent Elect Ben Freier to fulfill the vacancy resulting from the retirement of Highway Superintendent Richard McCulloch effective December 4, 2019 to December 31, 2019 at the same rate of pay.

Water Operator's Report: November 2019

- Changed Meters
- Marked out Dig Safety's
- Got weekly meter reads
- Did weekly water tests for each district
- Took bac t samples in all 4 districts
- Filled out and submitted monthly water report to health department
- Cleaned up Fire Hydrants
- Helped answer customer concerns associated to each water district
- Did water shut offs as needed
- Helped with sewer situations as needed
- Fixed and repaired two water shutoffs
- Fixed and replaced broken main line valve box
- Installed new hydrant markers on RT 89
- Called in Dig Safe mark outs
- Ordered more parts to compete inventory
- Located curb stops in Var 1
- Serviced plow for work truck
- Put new water tapping machine together to prepare for new water service on East Lake Rd
- Helped in highway shop when needed

Varick Water District No. 1: Mr. Hayssen reported that he met with the county manager and it was recommended that a new valve be installed above ground for easy access for this district. Mr. Karlsen reported that he repaired a shut off in this district with many more that need to be done.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. Karlsen repaired two curb stops and installed a main line valve.

Varick Water District No. 3: Mr. Karlsen reported that the chlorine levels are good in this district and the air from the main line has been completely removed which resulted from the water main break in Seneca County Water District No. 1.

Varick Water District No. 4: He purchased and has been installing hydrant markers in this district. He reported that Seneca Falls Water Department has been monitoring their chlorine and doing better at communicating with the water districts they supply water to.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Ben Karlsen has been performing some maintenance in this district and noted that it is impossible to replace pumps without assistance.

The board received a bill from Hunt Engineering for partial payment of service they completed pertaining to the infiltration study to be paid through grant funds. Mr. Hayssen will hold payment on this bill until he has an opportunity speak with Hunt Engineering.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Midiri reported that he sent a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Relin informing them of the board's decision regarding their sewer back up claim.

Judge: Mr. Hayssen reported that he received a letter from Judge Hogue indicating that his books are ready for review. Eric Riegel volunteered to complete the review and will contact Judge Hogue.

Code Enforcement: No Report.

Assessor: No Report

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$175, NYS Ag & Markets: \$7, Total Disbursements:\$182.

Minutes: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of November 4th and November 21, 2019.

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence:

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to hold an end of year meeting December 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to pay end of year bills and address any business that may come before the board.

The board will continue to accept letters of interest for the board vacancy until December 24th and will make an appointment at the end of year meeting.

Mrs. Angela Testa submitted her letter of resignation as cleaning person for the town of Varick. Mrs. Testa stated she thought she knew of a person who might be interested in the position at \$15 per hours. The board agreed that \$15 per hour was a reasonable amount to pay and directed Mrs. Karlsen and Mrs. Testa to complete interviews and fill the vacancy.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to direct Mrs. Testa and Mrs. Karlsen to conduct interviews and hire for the position of cleaning person.

Correspondence was received from Susan Ottenweller regarding the nomination to the vacant position on the town board. She wrote urging the board to take this opportunity to make the town board more diverse and noted it currently consists of all males, all residents of Route 89 and all Republicans. She expressed her opinion that the lack of diversity results in the Board not fully considering the views of all its residents. She states that she has asked active Democratic residents to help identify some candidates for the board's consideration and hope they will remain open to seriously considering their qualifications in a spirit of bi-partisanship that has been a goal of all Varick residents. Councilman Eric Riegel responded to her correspondence thanking her for her concern over the open position but noting that he took offense to the fact that she was accusing the board of being non partisan and not listening to or considering the views of the town's residents because the board is all male republicans and live on Route 89. He noted that when he was elected to the board, he ran against a democrat and won. He is open minded and listens to all residents that wish to speak to him and does not care what party they are associated with, where in the town they live or whether they are male or female and felt that it was very concerning that she thought that because the board was all male they would not perform their job properly. He noted that he is looking forward to nominees for the board and assured her they will be given due consideration and all will be treated fairly and equally.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Town Clerk