

January 7, 2020

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 Councilmen Richard L. McCulloch and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier and Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri. Also present was Anthony Comuso. Absent: Councilmen Tom Fox and Eric Riegel.

**Petitioners to Address the Board:** Mr. Comuso, who recently purchased a house on the corner of White Road and State Route 96, asked if municipal water was scheduled to be installed in front of his house. Supervisor Hayssen informed him that at this time there was no water project planned to extend municipal water from the hamlet of Romulus down State Route 96. He reviewed the process, estimated costs and length of time a water project takes. The board reviewed the limited number of properties this proposed main would service and felt the cost to the homeowner would exceed the allowable amount based on an income study for that area. Mr. Hayssen suggested that he survey the homeowners to see if there would be interest in municipal water and how much they would be willing to pay annually for it.

**Abstract:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 1, General, Vouchers A0019-230 to A0019-232 in the amount of \$147.92, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW119-021 in the amount of \$25, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS19-101 to SWS19-102 in the amount of \$24,101.72, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW319-023 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW419-052 to VW419-053 in the amount of \$1,189.94, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Voucher VS119-050 in the amount of \$26.39, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS19-36 in the amount of \$225.00, Capitol Building Project, Vouchers HO119-016 in the amount of \$34.17, General, Vouchers A0020-001 to A00200-006 in the amount of \$27,085.30, Highway, Vouchers DA020-001 in the amount of \$3,801.33, Varick Water District No. 1, Voucher VW120-001 in the amount of \$304.11, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS20-001 to SWS20-002 in the amount of \$3,680.80, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW320-001, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW420-001 in the amount of \$304.11, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS120-001 in the amount of \$304.11, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS20-001 in the amount of \$304.09.

**Highway:** Highway Superintendent Ben Freier requested the board approve the purchase of a Lincoln MIG welder at an estimated cost of \$2,000 to \$3,000.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a Lincoln MIG welder.

Mr. Freier appointed Kris Karlsen as his Deputy Highway Superintendent for a term of four years.

Mr. Freier was notified that Finger Lakes Health will no longer be completing the random draw of employees to be drug tested but will continue to do the lab testing. He will follow up on finding a company to do the random employee draws to be tested.

**Water Operator Report:  
December 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
- Ordered parts to prepare for upcoming projects
- Helped in Sewer Department with replacing grinder pumps
- Checked dead ends for chlorine residual
- Called in dig tickets to prepare for upcoming jobs
- Helped answer customer concerns associated to each water district
- Repaired broken curb stops
- Installed and replaced water service on East Lake Road
- Looked for leak in Varick Water District No. 3
- Located a water leak in Fayette 5 on Route 414 around 53,000 gallons lost
- Ordered more water meters
- Installed more hydrant markers on Route 89

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

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Supervisor Hayssen reminded the board that the water rate had been increased about a year ago to offset the loss in revenue resulting from non-payment for water consumed by Seneca County Water District No. 1 due to the malfunction of their master meter. At that time the board agreed to consider lowering the water rate once the loss in income was recovered through the water rate increase. Supervisor Hayssen felt the lost revenue had been recovered and asked the board to consider lowering the increase above cost to 17.5 %, resulting in a reduction in the current water rate per thousand gallons from \$3.92 per thousand to \$3.68 per thousand gallons of water. He reported that he felt the Village of Waterloo would be increasing the water rate to this district in June and proposed the board raise the water rate the same dollar amount per thousand gallons as to what the Village of Waterloo does at that time. The board discussed maintaining the current water rate until they were advised by the Village of Waterloo as to whether they would be raising the rate and if so, by how much. It was noted by Mr. Midiri that any rate increase would require a public hearing, but reductions do not.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to reduce the water rate to 17.5% above the current cost of \$3.13 per thousand gallons of water or \$3.68 per thousand gallons for Seneca Lake Water District. **(Note: This motion was rescinded at the March 3, 2020 board meeting due to the increase in water rates from the Village of Waterloo)**

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Nothing further to report.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report. Supervisor; \$100, NYS Ag & Markets; \$6, Total Disbursements; \$106.

Mrs. Karlsen appointed Donna Brandow as her Deputy Town Clerk to a four-year term.

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

Supervisor Hayssen appointed Angela Testa as bookkeeper for the town and Richard Peterson as his Deputy Supervisor to a four-year term.

**Minutes:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard L. McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**Zoning Code Enforcement:** Mr. Dorn submitted a written report detailing building permits issued for the last quarter of 2019.

**Appointments:**

Mr. Hayssen appointed Richard L. McCulloch and Tom Fox to the Auditing committee and Richard Peterson and Eric Riegel as the alternate auditing committee for a term of 1 year.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to appoint Tim Dorn as Code Enforcement Officer for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to appoint Bryan McCann as Dog Control officer for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to appoint Donna Karlsen as Records Manager for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to appoint Donna Karlsen as Tax Collector for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

Donna Karlsen appointed Donna Brandow as her deputy Registrar and Tax Collector for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

A motion by Richard L. McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to appoint Dolores Dinsmore as Town Historian for a term to expire December 31, 2021.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard L. McCulloch and so carried unanimously to designate Community Bank, NA, Lyons National Bank and Five Star Bank as the official banks for the Town of Varick.

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

Mrs. Karlsen stated that Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Carey reported that their 2020 town and county tax bill for parcel number 10-3-10.1 reflects inaccurately a water and sewer unit charge on property that was subdivided. Mrs. Karlsen requested approval from the board to have the charges removed from Carey's 2020 town and county tax bill and to assess these charges to parcel number 10-3-10.2 currently owned by Duttons, who have access to the water and sewer connections and to adjust the related tax bills accordingly

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard L. McCulloch and so carried unanimously to remove the water and sewer unit charges from the 2020 Town and County tax bill for parcel number 10-3-10.1, reassess these charges to parcel number 10-3-10.2, adjust the corresponding tax bills and notify the town assessor to make the correction.

Mrs. Karlsen also reported that parcel number 06-3-36 owned by Richard and Terri Egan still incorrectly reflects 2-unit charges for Seneca Lake Water District on the 2020 tax bill. She reminded the board they corrected this to 1.5 units and reduced the 2019 bill accordingly and offered a refund of the difference on their 2019 bill. Mrs. Karlsen reported that she notified Anne Morgan again requesting this change be made and asked the board for approval to reduce this year's bill accordingly.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to reduce the 2020 town and county tax bill for parcel number 06-3-36 a half unit for Seneca Lake Water District unit charges.

Hunt Engineering submitted a bill for services pertaining to the sewer infiltration study. They have been requested in December 2019 to provide a report to support the bill submitted and as of this date the board has not received any supporting documentation and will continue to withhold payment until they receive said documentation.

Mr. Hayssen received a letter pertaining to the judge's audit which will be completed by Eric Riegel.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk