

June 2, 2020

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 7:00 p.m. Present in the meeting were Councilmen Richard Peterson, Richard McCulloch, and Tom Fox, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent Benjamin Freier, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa and Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri. Absent: Eric Riegel

**Abstract:** A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 6, General Vouchers A0020-071 to A0020-73 in the amount of \$1,092.45, Highway, DA020-050 to DA020-55 in the amount of \$1,899, Varick Water District 1, Voucher VW120-010 in the amount of \$25, Seneca Lake Sewer District, Vouchers SWS20-047 to SWS20-050 in the amount \$696.77, Varick Water District No. 3, VW320-015 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, VW420-015 to VW420-016 in the amount of \$1,369.87, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS120-020 in the amount of \$187.27, Seneca Lake Sewer District No. 2, Voucher SSS20-010 in the amount of \$491.16.

**Highway:** Mr. Freier reported that the tree company that he contracted with to trim trees on East Varick Street have not returned to complete the job and remove the debris. He contacted the town's attorney, Joe Midiri reported he spoke with Anthony from the tree company who indicated they would be back at the job site on June 1 at 9:30. Mr. Freier reported that they did not show up and he hasn't heard anything from them as of this date. Mr. Midiri will contact them once again concerning their breach of contract and report back to Mr. Freier. It was noted that the town has not made any payments to them currently for work that they have done.

Mr. Freier reported that Dan Petrella from NYS DOT has not heard anything regarding the amount of CHIP funds the town is to receive, if any this year and there has been no update from the Governor's office regarding this matter.

Mr. Freier would like to move forward with putting binder down on East Varick Street once the tree service completes the job and remaining prep work required is completed by the highway department. Mr. Freier reported that the cost from Seneca Pipe & Paving to lay binder, who he reports is paying their employees at state rates, would be approximately \$18,000.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to resurface East Varick Street with binder at an approximate cost of \$18,000.

**Clean-Up:** Mr. Freier reported that Lyons Road Trash is not able to provide dumpsters for this year's clean up. He has contacted Casella Waste who has agreed to provide the dumpsters for the days of July 8<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>. He will put a sign up in the town's parking lot and Mrs. Karlsen will contact Wilson Press to see if they are available to print a flyer to be mailed to the homeowners with the Clean- up information. Since this year's clean-up is so late, the board has decided to do only offer one clean-up this year. Mrs. Karlsen will also use the OneCall system to notify town residents who have supplied phone numbers when the date gets closer.

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

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to the Town of Varick, Water 4 for the year 2019, number 14.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to the Town of Varick, Water District No. 4 of the year 2019, number 15.

**Water Operator's Report: May 2020**

- 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 shop
- Data logged water usage in each district
- Helped customers with questions or concerns in each water district
- Ordered Parts to fulfill inventory and for upcoming projects
- Turned water on as needed
- Called in Dig safes for upcoming projects
- Exercised and did maintenance on fire hydrants on Seneca Lake
- Helped Highway when needed
- Replaced Grinder pumps for sewer
- Replaced circuit board for sewer
- Water Truck is going to shop for repair due to worn out front-end bushings
- Flushed Dead ends to bring chlorine residual up
- Installed new water service on Seneca View Drive
- Inspected each manhole in the hamlet of Romulus
- Weed whacked hydrants, water valves and meter pits

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

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Nothing further to report

**Varick Water District No. 3:** It was reported that Willy's Water has begun drawing water from this district.

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

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

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Mr. Hayssen reported that he spoke to Mr. Kolbeck regarding purchase of more grinder pumps and his attention to sewer calls. Mr. Kolbeck would be placing an order for grinder pumps this month.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$355, NYS Ag & Markets: \$25, Total Disbursements: \$380.

**Minutes:** A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 5, 2020.

**Dog Control Report:** Mr. McCann, Dog Control Officer, submitted a written report to cover the dates of January 1 through May 30, 2020 which will be filed with the minutes of June 2, 2020.

**Summer Recreation:** Due to the Governors order to cancel all summer school activities resulting in Romulus Central School being closed for the summer, the 2020 Summer Recreation Program will be cancelled due to Corona 19 virus.

**Planning Board:** Mr. Bjorkman of the Planning Board submitted a proposed amendment to the Town of Varick's Dog Ordinance which he reports is the first step in addressing the short-term vacation rental issues as follows:

Section 6 – Prohibition of Nuisance by Dog

(E) Defecating on public or private property, other than property owned by the owner or handler of the dog, unless feces are removed promptly and disposed of sanitarly.

Mr. Midiri reported that a public hearing would need to be held prior to making any amendments to a law. The board is aware that the Planning Board continues to work on proposed zoning regarding vacation rentals and will wait for further suggestions before scheduling said public hearing.

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

The Zoning and Planning Boards are currently using ZOOM to conduct their meetings with the chairman sitting in the conference room in order to meet the open meeting law and providing the ZOOM number to anyone who wishes to join the meeting from a separate location.

Mr. Hayssen reported that Declaration Energy Center, LLC has submitted an application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need Pursuant to Article 10 of the Public Service Law for Construction of a 450 MW Solar Electric Generating Facility located in the towns of Romulus and Varick. They will be submitting a PIP Plan for the Declaration Energy Center available for the public review which was filed with the Public Service Commission on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Hayssen reported that according to the PILOT program legal fees incurred by the towns will be paid by Declaration Energy Center LLC or applicant. This facility is to be located on property owned by FLAUM and Earl Martin. Mr. Hayssen consulted with the town's attorney who recommended we hire Hancock & Associates to represent the town in this matter. Mr. Hayssen will contact Wendy Marsh from that firm and ask that she attend the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Fox

feels that the town should receive revenue from this program and suggested this be investigated further.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk