

August 3, 2021

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 Councilmen Richard McCulloch and Tom Fox, Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Attorney for the Town, Frank Fisher, Planning Board member, Richard Olsen and Town Assessor, Anne Morgan. Also present was Anthony Comuso. Absent: Supervisor Robert Hayssen, Councilman Eric Riegel, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa.

Privilege of the Floor: Anthony Comuso reminded the board of his previous attendance where he discussed with the board his interest in the formation of a water district along Route 96. He informed the board at this meeting that he is suggesting the water district would run from 4801 to 5489 Route 96 which would be about 2.5 miles and include 33 homes. He stated he did speak with Supervisor Hayssen who told him to seek interest from residents in this area through a simple questionnaire and submit this to the board for their consideration. Mr. Comuso reported he did present a questionnaire to the residents to complete but was asked questions regarding cost and possible increase in property assessed value which he was unable to answer. It was explained to him that the board would not be able to provide any of this information until an engineered map, plan and report had been completed. The town would not consider completing said work unless there was enough interest to warrant the costs involved. Mrs. Karlsen stated that she has on file a questionnaire that has been used previously when considering such projects that she could provide to him. Mr. Comuso also reviewed his efforts with the county regarding possible funding availability. Mr. Comuso will obtain a copy of the town's questionnaire, circulate it and bring the responses back for the board's review.

Planning Board: Richard Olsen, a member of the Planning Board, thanked the board for adopting Local Law No. 1, Noise Ordinance Regulations. Mr. Olsen reported that the Planning Board is recommending the Town Board approve mailing a post card briefly detailing information in the Noise Ordinance and presented wording to three proposed versions for the town board's consideration. It was Mr. Olsen's recommendation that the third version be accepted. The decision regarding this matter was tabled until a full board was present. Mr. Olson also questioned the status on the recommended change to the Dog Ordinance by the Planning Board. He was informed that a public hearing on the ordinance was scheduled for this meeting but hadn't been opened for comment yet. Mr. Olsen went on to question, on his behalf, if there were concerns expressed to the town board regarding vacation rentals and how they were addressed. The board informed Mr. Olsen that the board has received questions and concerns regarding this matter, which prompted them to request the Planning Board to develop an ordinance to be presented to the town board for their consideration. The board informs individuals that the town's Planning Board is in the process of developing regulations addressing vacation rentals and has directed them to present these questions and concerns directly to the Planning Board for comment.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to open the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. regarding Local Law No. 2, of 2021, "A Local Law to Amend the Responsible Pet Ownership Ordinance of the Town of Varick."

This amendment is to Section 6 of the Responsible Pet Ownership Ordinance entitled: Prohibition of Nuisance by dog, is hereby amended to add Sub-Section E which shall read as follows:

(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 sanitarily.

Mr. Olsen, a member of the Planning Board reported that this amendment addresses concerns presented to the Planning Board.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to close the public hearing at 7:52 p.m. regarding Local Law Number 2, of 2021, "A Local Law to Amend the Responsible Pet Ownership Ordinance of the Town of Varick."

Mr. Fisher informed the board that he would prepare a resolution and present it at the September 6th meeting for the board's consideration for adoption of Local Law Number 2 of 2021 amending the Responsible Pet Ownership Ordinance.

Abstract: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 8, General, Vouchers A0021-107 to A0021-122 in the amount of \$2,972.40, Highway, Vouchers DA021-048 to DA021-053 in the amount of \$21,210.80, Varick Water District No. 1, VW121-018 to VW121-020 in the amount of \$7,565.89, Seneca Lake Water District, SWS21-057 to SWS21-065 in the amount of \$127,500.78, Varick Water District No. 3, VW321-017 to VW321-019 in the amount of \$6,267.26, Varick Water District No. 4, VW421-030 to VW421-031 in the amount of \$2,768.67, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS121-039 to VS121-040 in the amount of \$4,256.92, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS21-023 to SSS21-027 in the amount of \$75,283.15, and South Seneca Ambulance, SAF21-007 in the amount of \$6,337.17.

Highway: Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier reported that the scheduled intersections have been paved, King's Corner Road will be paved from south of the culvert to McCulloch Road. The culvert pipe has been ordered and will either be installed this fall or next April depending on its arrival.

Water And Sewer Reports:

Water/Sewer Operator Monthly Report for July 2021

- 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
- Data logged water usage in each district
- Answered questions dealing with each water district and sewer system
- Called in Dig Tickets for upcoming projects
- Changed meters out on Seneca Lake Water District
- Cleaned shop
- Fixed broken curb stops
- Inspected new water service on RT 89

- Ordered new parts for upcoming projects
- Changed Grinder pumps out
- Wired new circuit boards in for sewer
- Cleaned around hydrants, valves
- Serviced work truck (breaks)
- Installed and wired new blower fan for sewer district #2
- Received updates regrading new meter reading equipment
- Retrieved Final reads as needed for closings on properties
- Ordered THM and HAA5 for August testing for each water district

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

Seneca Lake Water District: Nothing further to report.

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

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

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

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Nothing further to report.

Judge's Report: It was reported that Courtney Andrews was approved by Seneca County Personnel office and has begun taking over for retiring clerk Andrew Hekovic beginning August first. Angela Testa requested the board confirm the rate of pay for Ms. Andrews.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously pay Courtney Andrews at the same rate of hourly pay as Andrew Hekovic.

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

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to the Town of Varick General Fund, Resolution No. 1

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor; \$505, NYS Ag & Markets; \$18, Total Disbursements; \$523.

Minutes: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried to approve the minutes of July 6, 2021.

Assessor: Anne Morgan came prepared to discuss the Disabled Citizens and Limited Citizen Income Partial Property Tax Exemption and Senior Citizens Tax Exemptions and brought sample laws with percentage of reduction in property assessed valuation as adopted by the Towns of Romulus and Ovid. It was her recommendation that this be tabled until the September meeting

when there would be a full board present. She informed the board that no decision on these exemptions had to be completed until December 1st. Attorney Frank Fisher said he would prepare resolutions to present at the September meeting for these exemptions noting that the percentages can be amended at that meeting. Mrs. Morgan went on to report that she is catching up on deeds recently received from the Real Property Tax Office.

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence:

Mrs. Karlsen reported that she had received an email from Tammy Reynolds from Real Property Tax questioning if the town had opted out of the Solar exemption pertaining to RPTL-487. Mr. Fisher explained under RPTL-487 (2) of the Real Property Tax Law, are properties that contain certain energy generating facilities (mostly wind, solar and possibly farm waste systems for our purposes) are exempt from taxation, but only to the extent that the facility adds to the assessed value of the property. Under RPTL 487(8) the Town may, by local law remove that exemption for facilities built after the effective date of the local law. Alternatively, the town has the right to enter into payment-in-lieu-of-tax agreement under RPTL-487(9) with such facilities, subject however to specific notice requirements. He recommended that the board opt out was the best course of action with the opportunity to negotiate. He will prepare the local law resolution and present it to the board at the September board meeting.

Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution: Mr. Fisher explained to the board that the Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution is a resolution required by the New York State retirement system and was implemented many years ago when it was found that some state employees were reporting full time state employment through multiple state positions thus affecting their state retirement. The state provides a sample of the resolution to be adopted by the town boards which was distributed to the board members for their adoption as follows:

Resolution No.: 21-004

Town of Varick

STANDARD WORKDAY AND REPORTING RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Varick hereby establishes the following as standard workdays for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees’ Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the bookkeeper of this body:

| Title | Name | Standard Work Day (Hrs/Day) | Term Begins/End | Participates in Employer’s Time Keeping System | Days/Month |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|------------|
| Town Clerk | Donna Karlsen | 6 | 1/1/19-12/31/23 | N | 21 |
| Superintendent | C. Benjamin Freier | 6 | 1/1/19-12/31/23 | N | 20 |
| Bookkeeper | Angela Testa | 6 | 1/1/19-12/31/23 | N | 11.6 |
| Clerk | Donna Brandow | 6 | 1/1/19-12/31/23 | N | 4 |
| Council | Richard McCulloch | 6 | 1/1/21-12/31/21 | N | 1 |

On this 3rd day of August 2021

Motion: Richard McCulloch

Seconded: Tom Fox

So Carried Unanimously

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to adjourn the board meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Donna Karlsen

Varick Town Clerk