

May 2, 2023

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 McCulloch, Tom Fox and Eric Riegel, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, Planning Board, Cindy Lont and Julia Stanley. Also present was Chris Dorn. Absent: Councilman Richard Peterson.

**Approval of Abstract:** A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 5, Vouchers 513 to 540 in the amount of \$32,049.73.

**Highway:** Mr. Freier reported that a new box for the Sterling would cost approximately \$75,000 and he did not feel that would be cost effective to replace on a 23-year-old truck. The board agreed and will plan to use those funds towards purchasing a new truck to replace the Sterling.

Mr. Freier reported that he would like to purchase a Plate Tamper. He has received an estimate ranging from \$3,500 to \$7,000.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to authorize Highway Superintendent Ben Freier to purchase a plate tamper at a cost not to exceed \$9,000.

Mr. Freier reported that the 2023 Cleanup Days will be held Wednesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> through Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> with Wednesday and Thursday hours from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 6:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon. He reported that these new hours are based on previous years' experience of collection.

**Judge:** A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously acknowledging that the 2022 records of the Varick Town Court have been duly examined and that the fines therein collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town as required by law based on information provided by Court Clerk Courtney Andrews and Judge Jeffrey Hogue and Appendix 10-Annual Checklist for Review of Justice Court Records was completed.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen: Yes

Richard McCulloch: Yes

Eric Riegel: Yes

Tom Fox: Yes

So Carried Unanimously Absent: Councilman Richard Peterson

**Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Testa reminded the board that the town still has \$91,000 in ARPA money that is available to be spent.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's Report of March 2023.

**Code Enforcement:** Nothing to report.

### **Water/Sewer Operator Report: April 2023**

- 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
- Ordered parts as needed for upcoming jobs
- Located and talked with contractor about new water/sewer service
- Changed grinder pumps as needed
- Turned water services on
- Checked on potential water leak
- Worked on NYSWQR
- Cleaned and organized shop
- Got Final reads as needed
- Mailed out water bills
- Flushed dead ends
- Ordered ThM and Haa5 bottles for sampling for Varick 4
- Painted and did Hydrant Maintenance in Varick 1
- Responded to a water meter leak in Varick 1
- Attended OSHA training and Harassment training

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Mrs. Karlsen reported Nicholas and Mia Foti had a water leak during the first quarter of this year which resulted in a water bill in the amount of \$923.42. They are requesting permission to be set up on a payment schedule. The board agreed to divide the amount by the next three quarters to be paid off by October 31, 2023. If there is a remaining balance due after that date, it will be re-levied to the 2024 town and county tax bill.

Nothing further to report for all water and sewer districts.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor \$160; Total Disbursements \$160.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that there were no dog license renewals or STR applications accepted this month.

**Minutes:** A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 4, 2023.

**Personnel:** Mr. McCulloch reported that he spoke to Michelle Andrews, who was the town's previous summer recreation director, and she recommended a teacher from Waterloo, Ashley Chambers. Ms. Chambers has been approved by the county personal office and she is willing to

take the position but has a family vacation planned in August which might require the summer program to end the last week of July. At this time, Mr. McCulloch reported there were no other applicants to fill the director's position. The board agreed to end the recreation program the last week of July if needed to accommodate Ms. Chambers schedule and to offer her the position.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to hire Ashley Chambers as Director of the Varick/Romulus Summer Recreation Program and contingent on her acceptance, provide her with the required information to allow her to begin setting up for beginning the program the first week of July.

Mr. McCulloch will develop a brief description of the program for the file for future reference.

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

Julia Stanley, the secretary for the Planning and Zoning Boards was also hired to maintain the town's web page. She presented a proposal to the board to update the website that will serve the town of Varick and support not only the residents, but also the growing visitors and tourist population. She reported that she would like to work with Finger Lakes One to host the web page and reported that there is a monthly cost of \$30 to \$40 per month. Mrs. Lont had reviewed the Town of Fayette web page and reported that is who they work through. Ms. Stanley will be paid hourly through the planning and zoning board salary lines with any associated costs for the web page being paid through a general fund expense line, yet to be determined. All departments will provide information to Julia for posting. She will continue to research the best options to complete the update and will approach the board with any future questions that may arise.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel to authorize Julia Stanley to work with Finger Lakes One and town department heads to update the town's website.

Mr. Midiri reported that he contacted the Association of Towns and obtained information pertaining to Section 4.01-RPTL Section 466-a: Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Workers exemption and provided this information for the board's review. He noted that this exemption can be adopted by local law, ordinance, or resolution. It was noted that to be eligible for this exemption the property must be owned by an enrolled and certified member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or ambulance service and be in a city, town or village that is served by the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or ambulance service of which the applicant is an enrolled member. It was noted that because the departments are small, and located close together, many of the volunteers that serve don't serve within the departments that service the town they reside in, which would not make them eligible for the exemption and could result in them leaving one department and go to the one that services their town. Since our communities are small the local fire and ambulance departments have a mutual aid agreement and Mr. Midiri will check with the Association of Towns to see if this agreement would affect the eligibility of the volunteers. No action was taken at this time by the board until further information is provided by Mr. Midiri at the June meeting. at the June meeting.

It was noted that the July regular meeting of the Town Board falls on July 4<sup>th</sup> this year and it will need to be rescheduled.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to reschedule the July regular meeting of the Varick Town Board to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk