

June 6, 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, and Tom Fox, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Water Operator, Ben Karlsen, Attorney for the Town, Frank Fisher, Assessor, Anne Morgan, Planning Board, Cindy Lont. Also present was Jim Velie. Absent: Councilman Richard Peterson and Eric Riegel.

**Petitioners to Address the Board:** None.

**Abstract:** A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract 6 Vouchers 541 to 575 in the amount of 23,057.13.

**Highway:** Nothing to report.

**Judge:** Nothing to report.

**Supervisor/Bookkeeper:** Mrs. Testa presented a resolution to amend the 2023 budget and the supervisor's report for board review and approval.

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

**RESOLUTION NO 23-006  
AMENDMENT TO THE  
TOWN OF VARICK  
2023 BUDGET TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS there are not sufficient budget appropriations in the District Fund Budget to meet obligations of the Fund for the year 2023, and

WHEREAS, in conformity with Town Law and good bookkeeping practices, amounts should not be over appropriated, be it

RESOLVED, that the Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to make amendments to the 2023 budget to correct over budget line items as follows:

\$ 511.00	from Contingency	A1990.400	to State Retirement	A9010.800
\$ 113.00	from Equipment	SS1-8120.400	to Building Ins	SS1-1620.430
\$ 25.00	from Equipment	SW1-8320.200	to Building Ins	SW1-1620.430
\$ 236.00	from Equipment	SW2-8320.200	to Building Ins	SW2-1620.430
\$ 28.00	from Equipment	SW3-8320.200	to Building Ins	SW3-1620.430
\$ 500.00	from Equipment	SW3-8320.200	to Laborer	SW3-8320.101
\$ 74.00	from Equipment	SW4-8320.200	to Building Ins	SW4-1620.430

MOVED: Tom Fox  
SECONDED: Richard McCulloch  
So Carried Unanimously  
Absent: Councilmen Eric Riegel,  
Richard Peterson

**Code Enforcement:** No Report.

**Water/Sewer Operator's Report: May 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
- Changed meters out on Seneca Lake Water District
- Cleaned shop
- Changed Grinder Pumps out
- Retrieved Final reads as needed for closing on properties
- Quoted out water and sewer taps
- Fixed broken curb stops
- Installed 2- 1 ½ inch sewer taps
- Installed 2- 1 ½ water taps
- Inspected 4 new water hookups
- Updated and submitted NY State Water Quality report
- Turned on water services as needed
- Ordered parts as needed for upcoming jobs
- Met with contractors to discuss locations of water lines
- Checked pressure on RT 89
- Checked hydrant pressure on Rt 336 at the highest point
- Checked and turned on pump fan at lake sewer pump station

Mr. Karlsen reported that they will be renting a machine to complete repair of curb stops in the hamlet of Romulus and Seneca Lake Water District. He has followed up on the water truck order and was told it has been built and should be ready for delivery in a few months.

He sought approval to send Nate Craig to a Grade D Water Distribution Operator Certification Course in Courtland that will be offered October 23 to October 27, 2023 at a cost of \$575 plus hotel costs. He reported that classes start at 8:00 am and end at 4:30 pm, Monday through Thursday and Friday 8:00 to 11:00. He explained that to receive your class D certification, you must take the course, have 1 year's work experience and sit with the Seneca County Health Department.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Nate Craig attend Grade D Water Distribution Operator Certification Course in Courtland that will be offered October 23 to October 27, 2023 at a cost of \$575 plus hotel costs.

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

**Varick Sewer District:** Ben Karlsen reported that he has 7 grinder pumps in stock, which include the 5 ordered and received in March of this year. He will order the balance of 5 that is budgeted for this year as inventory decreases. He reported that the fan in the field out back of the pump station has been serviced and is turned back on for the season.

**Varick Water District No. 1:** The water department, with the assistance of Varick Highway, Town of Romulus, and county repaired a water main break and replaced a valve supplied by the Town of Romulus, in front of the old church in the hamlet. They have put top soil on and reseeded the area. Mrs. Testa, who is also the bookkeeper for the Town of Romulus, reported that the town of Romulus will be submitting to the Town of Varick 35% of the cost of the valve for reimbursement. Mrs. Testa stated the percentage was determined by the number of units in the joint districts. Mr. Hayssen said this percentage will be reviewed and any bills incurred for this and previous projects should be billed to the Town of Romulus, once a percentage is agreed upon by both towns. Mr. Karlsen reported that they have approximately 13 to 14 shutoffs to repair and have been changing meters as necessary and recording the materials used in the services which have been either copper or plastic.

**Seneca Lake Water:** All the air releases have been exercised in this district and hydrants that need to be repainted will be completed.

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Hydrants will be greased and exercised.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** Hydrants will be greased and exercised.

**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: \$237.50, NYS Ag & Markets: \$10, State Health Department: \$22.50, Total Disbursements: \$270.

**Minutes:** A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023.

**Assessor:** Anne Morgan reported that since 2015 there has been 53 gas wells in the Town of Varick with a final assessed value in 2015 of \$429,039 which has decreased annually to a value in 2023 of \$225,969. She reported that the assessed values are based on gas pumped through the well which has also decreased over the past 8 years. It was noted that the decrease in gas pumped affects the tax base for the town and Mr. Fox felt the town should be proactive in support of the pumps continued use. The board was provided the March 2023 assessor's report for review as follows:

## Assessment Department: March 2023

- Deeds are current to March 1, 2023.
- Bank Codes and Address changes are current, to what has been submitted.
- Field work is ongoing nearing completion, for 2023 tentative roll.
- All STAR (new) exemptions have been processed and forwarded to New York State.
- The first three STAR reports from New York State are being reviewed.
- All Agricultural renewal exemptions that were received on time have been processed.
- All other (Veterans, Building, Commercial) exemptions have been processed.

Mrs. Morgan reported that Mike Karlsen retired at the beginning of June and the County has farmed out deed processing.

**Planning Board:** Cindy Lont provided the board with a list of real estate brokers and attorneys who will receive a copy of the STR law and asked the board to review the list and suggest any additions. The Planning Board is developing a procedure to develop a waitlist for STR openings which will be maintained by the Planning Board secretary and reviewed by the Planning Board on a regular basis.

Ms. Lont reported that she attended a Flood Plain training and wanted to know who the Flood Plain Administrator was for the town. Mr. Hayssen reported that Harriett Haines represents the towns and the county in this position. She also reported that after several discussions with Finger Lakes 1 pertaining to the development of a new Varick website, it was decided to continue with the system the town currently uses. Julia has met with Thomas Bjorkman and is learning word press and has taken over updating the town's Facebook page.

**Summer Recreations:** Mr. McCulloch reported Ashley Chambers did accept the position as Director of the Varick/Romulus Summer Recreation Program and has met with the bookkeeper. Mrs. Testa stated she appears to be set to begin the program the first week of July.

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

Mr. Fisher reported that he had emailed over to Mr. Hayssen and Mrs. Karlsen right before this meeting a proposed model introductory resolution for a local law adopting the ten percent tax exemption for firefighters for the Board to take a look at which is modeled on the County's proposed local law since uniformity would be desirable. Mr. Fisher issued his legal opinion that any resident volunteer fire fighter/ambulance member who lives in the Town of Varick would be eligible if the volunteer department services the town of Varick and/or provides mutual aid to the town of Varick. Mrs. Karlsen also reported that Joe Midiri had sent over a video regarding this proposed law and can forward the information to them. No further action was taken at this time on this proposed introduction to this local law until the board has time to review the information provided by Attorneys Joe Midiri and Frank Fisher. It will be put on the agenda for the July meeting.

Mr. Fox introduced the topic of unvetted and illegal immigrants and the impact they can have on New York State and its communities. He recommended that the Town of Varick and Seneca

County be proactive regarding this issue. Mr. Fisher believes this topic has a specific political agenda and should be addressed professionally. It was noted that Varick has zoning in place to address issues that might arise regarding immigration and housing of the unvetted and illegal immigrants. A discussion was held regarding property owned by Earl Martin which is currently housing immigrants, but the property is not zoned to do so. It was reported that Mr. Martin has been informed that this was not a permitted use of this property, and it was recommended to him to address the Planning Board for a possible change in zoning. He has not done so as of this date, and the property continues to be used for an unpermitted use.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.  
Donna Karlsen  
Varick Town Clerk