

Minutes
Varick Town Board
January 2, 2007

The regular meeting of the Varick Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Joan Teichner at 7:00 p.m. Present at this meeting were Council Curt Karlsen, Jeff Case, and Kathy Russo, Attorney for the Town, John Sipos, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen. Also present were County Planning , Peter Brown, Village of Waterloo, Jim Bromka, Miles Persing and David Kidd.

Petitioners to the Board: Jim Bromka, representing the Village of Waterloo, informed the board that the Village would be able to provide billing service for Seneca Lake Water District and Varick Sewer District No. 2 at a total cost of \$5,000 per year. At the direction of the board, Mr. Case spoke with the Village and provided them with a proposed agreement identical to the one that is currently in place with the Town of Romulus and attached the letter provided by the Town of Romulus, which specified in detail the duties that would need to be performed under this proposed agreement. Mr. Bromka stated that the Village of Waterloo did not have the ability to accept payment by debit or credit card, but would be able to provide all the other services outlined in the agreement and the detailed letter for the \$5,000 per year.

Supervisor's Report: Mrs. Teichner read her State of Varick Address. A copy, provided by the supervisor, will be included with the minutes.

Highway: Mrs. Teichner reported that the Town of Fayette has the municipal agreement proposed by the Town of Varick for the Townline Road culvert project. She also provided Mr. Barto with some dimensions on the pipe that he requested. Mr. Peterson noted that Mr. McCormick would be willing to reduce the pipe size down to 7'.

Planning Board: Peter Brown reviewed the Records Management Grant he was submitting on behalf of the Town of Varick. The grant will request funds to purchase new metal shelves and record boxes, modern computer and database software, possibly a fire file and to contract with a part time Records Management Consultant and Records Management Clerk for records inventory. He noted that the application proposal included an option where the town could show their support for this grant by providing a percentage of matching funds. He suggested that by showing local support of 5% or 10% in matching funds might increase the town's chance of obtaining this grant and would require a resolution that Mr. Brown will provide. Mr. Case suggested 5% or a total of \$417 could be appropriated from the building contingency.

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE MATCHING FUNDS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RECORDS MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT FUND

WHEREAS, the Town of Varick is submitting an application requesting funds to purchase new metal shelves and record boxes, a new modern computer and database software, and to contract with a part time Records Management Consultant and Records Management Clerk for records inventory, needs assessment and Records Management Planning, for a total of Project cost of \$8,326; and,

WHEREAS, as the application proposal includes an option to show local support through a small matching fund; and,

WHEREAS, The town has sufficient monies in its contingency fund to cover 5%, (\$417) of the total project cost; now,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Varick will apply for LGRMIF funding in the amount of \$7,909 and if awarded, provide \$417 toward the records inventory project for a grand project total cost of \$8,326.

Motion: Jeff Case

Seconded: Curt Karlsen

Unanimously Carried

Mr. Brown reported that we should know by Spring if we receive the grant and should received any grant funds, if approved, approximately in July.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to appoint Frankie Long to the Planning Board for a term of 5 years.

Zoning Board: A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried unanimously to appoint Arthur Sherman to the Zoning Board for a term of 5 years.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Karlsen reported that Mr. Nicholson has done a lot of cleaning, sorting and inventory for both the water and sewer districts. He also reported that the bushings in the motor for the fan needed to be replaced and Mr. Case will contact Granger to see if there is any warranty on it. Mr. Case and Mr. Karlsen reported that the line has been installed to help control the odor, a calf hut, which will be camouflaged with paint, was placed at the end of the line to install the fan which was placed on a timer.

The thermostat for the heater has come in but Dan Duddleston is unsure how to connect it. It was suggested to Mr. Case and Mr. Karlsen by Dan that we contact an electrician, such as Richard Marr, to see if he can help them connect this new thermostat.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Kathy Russo and carried unanimously to have Mr. Duddleston or Mr. Case contact Richard Marr to connect or assist in the connection of the thermostat.

Mr. Karlsen also requested a copy be made of the pump station key that Mrs. Teichner has and have it kept down at the building in case of an emergency. Mr. Case also reported that he is waiting to hear from Difredericos concerning the placement of the bioxide filter.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. Nicholson, after reviewing his costs, had requested that he be paid \$15 per hour, rather than the \$14 per hour as originally offered him for work completed for this district.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve \$15 per hour for services provided by Nicholson Trucking for the Seneca Lake Water District.

Mr. Karlsen reported that Mr. Nicholson expressed concern over the brakes on the water district's truck and a flat tire. It was suggested that the truck be taken to N. R. Boyce in Ovid to have it gone through.

Mrs. Teichner reported that there are 5 bolts that need to be replaced on the fire hydrants and stated that the district could contract with Yaws to replace them. It was noted that if the project is to exceed \$10,000, which it would at \$300 per hydrant, it would need to be bid out.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried unanimously to table the replacement of the bolts and hiring of a contractor until more information is available.

A discussion and review of the agreement presented to the Village of Waterloo, which is the same agreement with the Town of Romulus, for doing the water and sewer billing was held. Mrs. Teichner reviewed the letter from the Town of Romulus, noting all the duties they perform in addition to what is stipulated on their agreement. It was noted at the December meeting and pointed out again at this meeting that their agreement is rolled over from year to year for a period of three years as stipulated and may sooner be terminated without cause by either party upon 90 days written notice of termination. Mrs. Russo felt that the board had made a commitment to the Town of Romulus at the December meeting to continue with their agreement. Mr. Case noted that at the December meeting this board did not have a firm offer from the Village of Waterloo to do the billing. He recognized that the Town of Romulus does a good job with the billing but stated that it comes down to a business decision. He noted that by entering into an agreement with the Village of Waterloo for the same services offered by the Town of Romulus, less the debit/credit card service would save the district \$5,000, and the Village's charge for water testing is also less than what is being paid currently. He also questioned after reading the letter sent by the Town of Romulus, who indicated they were losing money by doing our billing and if we can save money, why not give it to someone else and noted it would

benefit everyone. Mrs. Teichner brought up the water rates being charged by the Village and wanted to wait to see what they were going to do with regards to these rates. Mr. Case noted that the water district has no leverage when it comes to the water rates because we don't have another source to purchase water from. Mrs. Teichner noted that she didn't want to change because she is anticipating headaches by using an entity that would save the district money, using the sewer project as an example, and indicated she doesn't feel the headaches would be worth a \$5,000 savings. She also stated that a town resident is employed by the Town of Romulus and works on this billing.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen that we employ the services of the Village of Waterloo to do our billing for \$5,000.

Roll Call:

Jeff Case - Yes

Curt Karlsen - Yes

Joan Teichner - No

Kathy Russo - No

Assessor's Report: Anne Morgan submitted a resolution to increase maximum income eligibility of the Senior Citizen Tax Exemptions. It was determined that a public hearing would need to be held on this resolution.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to hold a public hearing on the resolution to increase maximum income eligibility of the Senior Citizens Tax Exemptions February 6, at 7:00 p.m. at the Varick Town Hall.

Mr. Sipos indicated that Seneca Falls held a public hearing for the Senior Citizen and Low Income Property Owners With Disabilities Exemptions, but Anne Morgan only seems to be requesting a change in the senior citizen exemptions at this time.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve the Assessor's report.

A copy of this report will be included with these minutes.

Code Enforcement: Mr. Foxx submitted a report to the supervisor, but due to the copier being down, could not be given to the board. Mrs. Teichner will supply it at the next meeting.

Bookkeeper's Report: Mrs. Teichner passed out the end of year reports to the board from the bookkeeper. Mrs. Teichner reported that the bookkeeper does have the 2007 budget entered, but not finalized as she wants to review it one more time.

Supervisor's Report: Mrs. Teichner attended the inauguration in Albany and reported that the Governor is appointing both Republicans and Democrats to committees and assigning more duties to the Lieutenant Governor. She also attended a meeting at Hobart and William Smith and the Governor will be addressing the Indian Land Claim.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to designate Five Star Bank and Community Bank as depositories for the year 2007.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to designate the Reveille Between the Lake as the official newspaper for the year 2007.

A motion to by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried to establish the mileage rate for 2007 at \$.36 per mile.

Roll Call:

Jeff Case - Yes

Curt Karlsen - Yes

Kathy Russo - Yes

Joan Teichner - No

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to appoint Joan Teichner as the delegate for the 2007 Association of Town's meeting.

A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried unanimously to grant John Sipos permission to attend the Association of Town's meeting.

It was noted by the Town Clerk that she had given Mrs. Teichner the 2007 annual support bill from Harris. Mrs. Teichner couldn't locate it at that time, but wanted it included with the bills to be paid for January and will get it to the Town Clerk to be added to the abstract. Mrs. Karlsen will reflect the increase in the General Fund figures in the minutes to reflect the Harris bill once she gets it from Mrs. Teichner.

A motion by Curt Karlsen, seconded by Jeff Case and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 1, General, Vouchers 07-001 to 07-007 in the amount of \$26,711.99, Highway, Voucher 07-01 in the amount of \$2,395.86, Seneca Lake Water, Vouchers 07-001 to 07-002 in the amount of \$7,346.30, and Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers 07-001 in the amount of \$4,000.

Frank Case needs internet service at the town hall to process tickets and complete justice work. Mrs. Teichner will contact Road Runner and get rates. It was suggested that she ask for municipal rates, not business and to remind them that they have a franchise in our township that needs to be approved regularly when negotiating pricing.

A discussion was held concerning the copier and its availability to everyone who enters the building. It was noted that the justice has his own copier and it was suggested that perhaps a less expensive copier be purchased and placed in the bookkeeper's office for her use and the existing copier placed back in the clerk's office before something major happens to it. No decision was made on the purchase of a copier for the bookkeeper. It was determined that the copier needs to be repaired.

Mr. Karlsen informed the board that Mrs. Teichner put through an address change for the Town of Varick Supervisor to have the mail delivered to her home address. Mrs. Karlsen explained that when Mrs. Teichner put the address change through the post office as Town of Varick Supervisor, because of the way the post office sorts, all the mail addressed to the Town of Varick, if it weren't for our mail carrier changing it, would be delivered to the Supervisor's home address. She also explained that because of this the town's billing address is being changed to the Supervisor's home address for all companies that have "Address Service Requested" at the top of their envelopes and cited Suburban Energy Services as just one example.

Mrs. Teichner stated when she came on board she realized the importance of whoever was supervisor that their mail should always come to the Town Hall and she at that time left the mailing address for the supervisor's mail at the town hall. Mrs. Teichner then went on to say that she had changed the mailing address to her home address about a year ago. She also indicated that the Town of Varick's mail and her mail is delivered by the same mail carrier who had taken it upon himself to deliver the town mail, which he thought should be given to the supervisor, to her anyway and indicated that this same mail carrier had done the same thing for the prior supervisor.

Mr. Karlsen stated that he did not feel it was a good practice to have any town mail pertaining to town business being delivered to anyone's home address and cited how a large check and other mail belonging to the town had been thrown away by past supervisors when it had been delivered to their home address.

A motion by Curt Karlsen seconded by Jeff Case that the Supervisor have no mail for the Town of Varick go to her house, all Town of Varick mail is to come here, to the Town of Varick's mailing address.

Roll Call:

Curt Karlsen Yes

Jeff Case	Yes
Kathy Russo	No
Joan Teichner	No

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Jeff Case, seconded by Curt Karlsen and so carried to approve the Town Clerk's report.

Mrs. Karlsen tried to explain that after speaking to the post master that in order to correct the mail delivery so that all the Town of Varick's mail would not be delivered to the supervisor's house, all Mrs. Teichner would have to do is correct the address change from Town of Varick Supervisor to Joan Teichner, Supervisor and the sorting by the post office would be done correctly. According to what the postmaster had told Mrs. Karlsen, she had already discussed this with Mrs. Teichner. Mrs. Teichner did not remember having this discussion with the post master and refused to put the change through. Mrs. Karlsen stated that at the request of the post master she will notify her that, due to a tie vote, no action was taken on this matter by the board.

Mrs. Teichner told Mrs. Karlsen that she did not want her contacting the postmaster and the board did not approve this. Mr. Case noted that the Town Clerk does not need her or the board's approval to do this. Mrs. Karlsen stated that as Town Clerk, and at the request of the postmaster, she will contact her to let her know of the board's decision. Mrs. Karlsen also indicated that as Town Clerk she was given the responsibility of sorting town mail. With the current situation and the uncertainty of where the Town of Varick's mail is being delivered, she stated she would not take responsibility for any mail that becomes lost or the Town of Varick's billing address being incorrectly changed.

Mr. Case questioned Mrs. Teichner as to why she presented herself as the Town of Varick Supervisor, representing this town and its board, at a meeting held by the Town of Romulus and indicated through her representation as Supervisor that she and this board were not in favor of the ethanol plant and he referred to a Finger Lakes Times article which reported on that meeting. He reminded her of a motion that was passed by this board in support of the ethanol plant. Mr. Case cautioned her that if she wishes to express her own views, she shouldn't do it by presenting herself as Supervisor of the Town of Varick. Mrs. Teichner did not agree with Mr. Case's statement.

Mrs. Teichner adjourned the meeting at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen, Town Clerk