

November 13, 2013

A special 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 Peter McDonald and John Saeli, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen and Bookkeeper, Angela Testa. Absent were council members Kathy Russo and Robert Bauman.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to open the public hearing on Local Law No. 1 of the year 2013 to Override The Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C.

The intent of this law is to allow the Town of Varick to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2014 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law 3-C. Mr. Saeli wanted it noted that the reason for this law to be passed this year is due to the development of Varick Water District No. 4 budget and the increase in appropriations due to the South Seneca Ambulance Corporation.

There were no further comments and Mr. Hayssen asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to close the public hearing on Local Law 1 of the year 2013 to Override The Tax Limit Established in General Municipal Law 3-C.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to adopt Local Law 1 of the year 2013 To Override The Tax Levy Limit Established In General Municipal Law 3-C to take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

2014 Budget: The bookkeeper reported that Assessor Anne Morgan submitted a 2014 budget figure of \$22,197, slightly higher than the \$19,636 that was paid in 2013, but lower than \$27,136 which was the figure used in the Tentative Budget. This increase is reflected in the cost to run this office being split by four towns instead of five.

Supervisor Hayssen explained that the South Seneca Ambulance total contractual dollar amount for the towns of Lodi, Ovid, Romulus and Varick amounted to \$233,678.74. This amount is to be divided by the total number of parcels serviced for all four towns, or 3,672 parcels. The unit charge per parcel will be \$63.638 and the number of units for Varick is 703, for a total amount to be collected of \$44,738 which was added to the Preliminary Budget at the November 6th meeting.

A discussion to extend South Seneca Ambulance's coverage to the entire town of Varick was held and how it would effect the per parcel unit charge. Mr. Hayssen did not feel it was fair to extend the district to include the Varick residents in the northern part of the

town as North Seneca Ambulance is currently providing the same service at no cost to them.

Mr. Hayssen reviewed with Municipal Solutions the proposed principal and interest payments due on the bond for Water District No. 4. He reported that \$14,000 represents the principal payment due and \$20,375 is the interest payment due for the period May 7, 2013 to May 7, 2014. Based on this, it was suggested that we double the interest amount budgeted to cover any principal and interest amount that may be incurred for the period of May 8, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Therefore, the appropriation for Bond Interest was raised from \$20,375 to \$40,750, resulting in budgeted principal and interest payments of \$54,750 for 2014. Mr. Hayssen and Mrs. Morgan have been reviewing the parcels to be assessed in this district and he currently is basing the cost per parcel on 161 units, but the parcel count may increase with further review.

Mr. Hayssen also discussed the paper work that was supposed to be submitted to the contractor from Tim Buhl, which according to the contractor he has not received. Mr. Hayssen will continue to pursue this matter.

After final review the only revision to the 2014 Preliminary Budget was the following:

1. Water District No. 4 appropriation for bond interest to be increased from \$20,375 to \$40,750

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Hayssen to move the 2014 Preliminary General Fund Budget, Highway Fund Budget, and Special District Fund Budgets as the adopted 2014 Town of Varick Budgets for the year 2014 and to adopt the Fire Protection Units.

Discussion: Mr. Saeli was not in favor of passing the 2014 budgets with a 3% pay raise included for the town employees and elected officials. He was in favor of a 2% raise which would stay consistent with the 2% tax cap. Although Mr. Hayssen and Mr. McDonald were still in favor of the 3% raise. Mr. Hayssen pointed out that no raises were given last year and if he were to split the 3% being given this year over the last two years, the increase actually given this year is only 1 ½%.

Supervisor Hayssen called for a roll call vote on the following motion:

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Robert Hayssen to move the 2014 Preliminary General Fund Budget, Highway Fund Budget, and Special District Fund Budgets as the adopted 2014 Town of Varick Budgets for the year 2014 and to adopt the Fire Protection Units.

Robert Hayssen: Yes

Peter McDonald: Yes

John Saeli: Yes

So Carried 3 to 0

Absent: Council members Kathy Russo and Robert Bauman

Mr. Saeli discussed with the board a pilot program offering revenue sharing from Seneca Lake Water District to Varick Water District No. 1 and Varick Water District No. 3. It was also suggested that this revenue sharing be extended to Romulus' water district in the Hamlet of Romulus and Fayette 5 water district as these districts work together jointly. Seneca Lake Water profit margin is based on a .50 markup from the cost of water being purchased from the Village of Waterloo. Mr. Saeli suggested taking 40 cents of that mark up and multiplying it by every 1000 gallons of water actually used by Varick Water 3, Varick Water 1 and possibly the two other town's water consumers. A check would be processed from Seneca Lake Water District accordingly and deposited in to each respective district to help off set costs. The suggested .40 rebate is based on an agreement set with the Town of Fayette that they not increase water rate more than .10 above their cost to Water District No. 4.

The board reviewed water usage by all the involved districts and how this proposed pilot program would affect each district individually and what the cost would be to Seneca Lake Water District. It was determined that further research would need to be done.

A motion by Peter McDonald seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk