

May 3, 2016

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 Council Members, Todd Horton, Thomas Fox, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Attorney for the town, Joe Mirras, Planning Board member, Barry Somerville and Code Enforcement Officer, Richard L. McCulloch. Also present were Steve & Melissa Zeitler, and Ovid Gazette reporter, Aneta Glover.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Mr. Zeitler stated that he lives at 5326 East Lake Road and their neighbor, Greg McNeeley installed a high pressure sodium light which shines onto their property and into their home and is a nuisance and an invasion of privacy. They have discussed this issue with Mr. McNeeley who indicated to them he installed the light for safety. Mr. Zeitler has asked them to redirect the light or install a motion light, with no result. They then contacted the Code Enforcement Officer. Richard L. McCulloch reported that he has been down to review the situation and the zoning ordinance does address this issue. Mr. McCulloch reported that Mr. McNeely is currently out of town, but as soon as he returns which will be within the next week or so, he will be in contact with the McNeeley's and hopes to resolve this issue. The town attorney offered his assistance if required.

Highway: Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch reported that the Spring Cleanup is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18th through Saturday May 21st with Fall Cleanup scheduled for Wednesday, October 19th through Saturday, October 22nd.

He reported that he has been working with the towns of Covert and Ovid pertaining to the replacement of the tractor/mower with no success. He noted that when the Federal Government took over the process of purchasing municipal equipment under the bid pricing from the state, the process has become very difficult and the municipalities are finding the pricing to be not as good and are unable to obtain the products they want. This is the case with the tractor/mower. Mr. McCulloch will look into just replacing the sickle mower through Alamo and noted the tractor isn't in bad shape. He noted the switch blade is in working order.

Mr. McCulloch reported that the town has in surplus an old plow, wing and power washer that he would like to put on the GovDeals auction website with the board's permission.

A motion by Richard Peterson seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to auction off the surplus plow, wing and power washer on the GovDeals and direct Mr. McCulloch to determine the fair and equitable price for these items.

Mr. McCulloch has not determined, as of this date, what roads are scheduled for repair, but noted that Seneca Stone has established a paving crew.

Assessor: Ann Morgan reported she filed the Tentative Role with the Town Clerk today and that Grievance Day will be held May 25th from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Varick Town Hall. She handed out information pertaining to the STAR Transition which is part of the 2016-2017 New York State Budget. This program is being transitioned to a new personal income tax (PIT) credit program. The legislations also allows those property owners eligible for the PIT credit to receive an accelerated payment directly from New York State. She noted that if you had a STAR exemption on your property for the 2015-2016 school taxes, there will be no change. If you purchased your home after March 2, 2015 you are not eligible for the STAR school property tax exemption, but you may register with New York State for the Personal Income Tax Credit/Check program (PIT). Mrs. Morgan pointed out and stressed that this information is subject to change as more information becomes available.

She also reported that the new equalization rate is at an all time low of 82% and there was little change in the gas wells. There will be a joint assessment committee meeting held on Thursday, May 5th at 5:00 at her new offices in Ovid. Mr. Fox will be attending this meeting as representative of the town. Mrs. Morgan also reported she had an opportunity for the first time to tour the depot property.

General Water: It was suggested that a letter be sent to the residents in Water District No. 1 and Water District No. 3 notifying them of the increase in water rates that took affect April 1. Mrs. Testa will bring in the sample letter that the Town of Romulus used, which she noted was very confusing, for the town's reference. It was noted that the letter will inform these water consumers that the rate increase is due to the substantial water rate increase from Seneca County Water District No. 1.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to send letters out to Varick Water 1 and Varick Water 3 users notifying them of the increase in water rates affective April 1, 2016.

Mr. Peterson expressed his dissatisfaction with the county pertaining to the water leaks in the county lines and that very little action has been taken to repair these lines. Until this is done, the county will continue to lose money. Mr. Hayssen noted there is nothing we can do as a town to get them to do the necessary maintenance and to manage their money appropriately.

Varick Water District No. 1: No new business

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. McCulloch reported that the low book value on the 2004 F150 water truck is \$7,632 and high book value is \$9,000. It is ready to go to auction on GovDeals and Mr. McCulloch was directed to set the minimum price.

Varick Water District No. 4: Mr. Hayssen has been monitoring the master meter and has asked for a key to the pit from the Town of Fayette, but has not received one as of this date. He noted that the electricity has gone out a couple times and when this happens

the meter needs to be reset. The board discussed using a solar power unit to prevent this from happening. No action was taken at this time.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the bookkeeper's report.

Town Clerk: A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$90, NYS Ag & Markets: \$17, Total Disbursement: \$107.

Code Enforcement Officer: Mr. McCulloch reported that there were no permits issued in the month of April, however he did send three parties to the ZBA for potential permit issuance.

Personnel: Mrs. Russo reported that she has spoke to Chris Paylara at Romulus Central School and everything is set for the Summer Recreation Program and all of last year's councilors are returning this year.

Mr. Fox discussed providing opportunities for town resident's children to work in the community. Mrs. Russo stated that a program through the county called Workforce Development provides such opportunities. It was reported that anyone hired by the town would need to be approved through the county, a list of work items would need to be developed and supervision provided.

Planning Board: Barry Somerville suggested on the Planning Board's behalf that a letter be sent to attorneys and realtors notifying them of the process for subdivisions in the Town of Varick. It was noted that the town's web page has this information posted and it would be very difficult to reach everyone. Joe Mirrus noted that attorney's and realtor's already know that prior to completing a subdivision, they should be checking the town codes.

Minutes: A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 5, 2016.

Dog Control Officer: Submitted his first quarter written report.

Abstract: A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 5, General, Vouchers A0016-79 to A0016-83 in the amount of \$\$525.73, Highway, Vouchers DA016-031 to DA016-38 in the amount of \$5,274.08, Varick Water 1, Vouchers VS116-007 to VS116-008 in the amount of \$4,331.08, Seneca Lake Water, Voucher SWS16-016 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water No. 3, Vouchers VW316-009 to VW316-010 in the amount of \$3,338.50, Varick Water District No. 4, Voucher VW416-14 in the amount of \$25, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS116-015 to VS16-16 in the amount of \$2,637, Seneca Lake Sewer District, Voucher No. SSS16-008 in the amount of \$5,892

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence: Aneta Glover thanked Supervisor Hayssen for attending the ground breaking ceremony for the Lodi Library and noted he was the only Supervisor from the southern end of the county to attend.

Am motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:35.

Respectfully Submitted

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk