

April 2, 2019

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 Ben Freier, Eric Riegel, Tom Fox and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Water Operator, Ben Karlsen, Sewer Maintainer, Bill Kolbeck, Town Assessor, Anne Morgan and Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri.

Petitioners to Address the Board: None.

Abstract: A motion by Ben Freier, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 4, General, Vouchers A0019-060 to A0019-067 in the amount of \$9,078.46, Highway, Vouchers DAO19-020 to DAO19-024 in the amount of \$707.60, Varick Water District No. 1, Voucher No. VW119-005 in the amount of \$25, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS19-022 to SWS19-027 in the amount of \$1,602.48, Varick Water District No. 3, Voucher No. VW319-005 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, VW419-010 to VW419-012 in the amount of \$610, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS119-014 in the amount of \$183.60, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS19-007 to SSS19-008 in the amount of \$441.38.

Highway: Spring and Fall Clean up will be held May 15th to May 18th and October 16th to October 19th, 8:00 to 4:00 weekdays and 8:00 to 12 noon on Saturday. Mr. McCulloch reported that the items collected during clean up has reduced over the last few years and Wednesday and Thursday are very slow and suggested the board reduce collection to two days, Friday and Saturday, for spring and fall clean up. He reported that the surrounding towns only hold one day for collection in the spring and fall. The board will consider this option for next year.

Mr. McCulloch reported that, due to the icy conditions this winter, the highway department used 30% more salt than last year. He plans on resurfacing the upper part of Yale Farm Road and the upper part of Route 124, Town Line Road. The board reviewed Ogden Road's condition and suggested he consider resurfacing the upper end of this road. Mr. McCulloch reported he should have approximately 70% required funds to complete Ogden and requested the board appropriate the balance of funds to complete this project. He will provide a cost to complete this project at the May meeting for the board's consideration.

Mr. Peterson praised Kris Karlsen's work ethic and dedication to the highway department and town residents acknowledging the time he has spent plowing this winter and the knowledge he brings to this department.

Supervisor's Report: Mrs. Testa reported that she has created a Capital Project "H" fund for the Building Addition Capital Project. She has transferred the JCAP funds and capital project fund originally budgeted in the General fund to the "H" fund. She reported that in transferring these funds from the General, it leaves the General Fund short \$5,518.13 and suggested we borrow these funds from the Highway rather than breaking a General Fund CD.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the creation of the “H” fund for the Building Addition Capital Project and transferring the JCAP grant of \$28,500 and \$142,000 budgeted in the General Fund to this fund.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve a loan by the highway fund to the general fund in the amount of \$5,518.13 to be paid back when the general fund CD comes due.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Ben Freier and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor’s Report.

Code Enforcement: No report.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Mr. Karlson questioned the board as to who was responsible for addressing sewer issues for this district. Mr. Kolbeck, who is the sewer maintainer for the town, indicated he was not familiar with this district and was not responding to calls. Ben Karlson reported that he has been addressing issues on the town’s behalf but would like to know who he can direct future calls to. The board tabled this for further consideration.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Karlson reported that he received a call from Jeff Kelsey who reported that his electric bill was higher than normal and felt the grinder pump was running excessively resulting in his increased electric bill. Mr. Karlson contacted Mr. Kolbeck and at the request of Mr. Kolbeck, they both responded. Mr. Karlson arranged to have a camera scope the pit and it was found that a small amount of surface water was penetrating around a seal on the homeowner’s side of the pit. They also confirmed the grinder pump was in working order. It was noted that water flows from the back fields and saturates this area with water. Mr. Kelsey reported he has some drain tiles in this area and it was suggested to him that they should be checked for obstructions. Mr. Kolbeck reported that the town replaced this seal once and informed the board that the seal is on the homeowner’s side and is the responsibility of the homeowner. The board determined the repair is the responsibility of the homeowner. Mr. Kolbeck will contact Mr. Kelsey with the board’s decision and provide a follow up letter for the supervisor’s approval and signature.

A motion by Ben Freier, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to direct Bill Kolbeck to write a letter of explanation to Mr. Kelsey regarding his responsibility pertaining to his sewer system on the board’s behalf and submit it to the supervisor for his approval and signature.

Operator’s Report:

Water Operator Report for March 2019

- Changed Meters
- Marked out Dig Safety’s
- Turned waters on as needed
- 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
- Found Leak at Goose Watch Winery on RT 89

- Cleaned shop/Washed Truck
- Got Quote on Water Truck
- Met with health dept on upcoming scheduled samples
- Got Supplies Ready for two new water hookups on Rt 89
- Inspected new water service
- Ordered parts to prepare for Spring/Summer jobs
- Fixed broken meter on Seneca Lake
- Helped Camera/Problem Solve sewer issue on East Lake Rd
- Inspected two new water services on rt 89
- Turned off water services due to leaking pipes
- Sent over new water services and meter changes to Village Of Waterloo
- Investigated sewer concern in Sewer Dist. #1
- Cleaned tools due to putting in new water services
- Hand dug curb stop due to broken rod in Var1 Water
- Fixed water truck due to a broken Crankshaft sensor
- Met with customer who had questions on water line coming into house was worried about the freezing temps
- Dropped parts off for contractors who are planning on installing new water services in Var 4

Varick Water District No. 1: Mr. Hayssen reported that a curb stop was found and repaired on Tipperary Street.

Seneca Lake Water District: Further review will be taken regarding the proposed agreement by the Village of Waterloo pertaining to the purchase of water with the town attorney.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that she received a call from outgoing Mayor Ted Young from the Village of Waterloo inquiring why the town hasn't paid January and February water bills. Mrs. Karlsen explained that the board has reviewed the bills, but because he has denied access to the master meter to confirm water usage, the board is waiting until the consumers are billed at the end of first quarter to compare total gallons of water used by the consumers to what the Village is billing to confirm billing accuracy and potential water issues. The mayor indicated after further discussion that he would direct Jim Bromka to provide the town's water operator with a weekly water read every Monday morning. Mr. Hayssen reported that the town hasn't received the billing reports from the village as of this date but will review the billing once received and asked the board for authority to make payment to the Village once these reports are reviewed and the Village bills are found to be acceptable.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve payment of the first quarter water bills from the Village of Waterloo contingent on the Supervisor's final approval.

Mayor Ted Young returned the town's check for \$1,704.61 which represented an adjusted amount paid for repair of three water line breaks that occurred on October 3, 2018 stating the Village of Waterloo does not recognize any such unilateral billing adjustment process stated in the inter-

municipal agreement. He further went onto say that if the requested payment of \$3,654.22 wasn't received within 30 days, the Village of Waterloo will consider this a breach of contract and will no longer provide inter-municipal services and will not renew their inter-municipal agreement with the Town of Varick. The board was reminded that this payment was adjusted based on information provided to the town by Jim Bromka acknowledging a failure in the Village of Waterloo's equipment causing a water hammer in the town's water main and the failure of the Village to repair one of the leaks correctly requiring additional repair costs to the Town of Varick.

Jim Bromka sent an interoffice memorandum to the Varick Town Board providing revised information from what was originally reported to the town by him pertaining to the water line surge or hammering that took place on October 3. He reviewed with engineer John Helgren his take on the circumstances of that day and only spoke of the electric outage and made no mention in his memorandum of the brown-out that was experienced prior to the electric outage. He stated that to his knowledge, the pressure relief valve worked as it is designed to and suggested the town check with Seneca County Water District Administrator to be sure the Ross Surge valve at the Depot is being maintained and tested regularly. Mr. Karlsen reported that he did follow up with the maintainer at the depot who reported that the Ross Surge Valve had been recently maintained and tested and was found to be fully operational.

Based on the newest information provided by Jim Bromka and the water maintainer for the depot, it is unclear what caused the water line surge or hammering that took place October 3 and further research needs to take place to prevent further water line surges or hammering. The board noted that they did not receive any enclosures referred to in Jim Bromka's memorandum and requested these be provided to them.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to process payment in the amount of \$3,654.22 for payment in full for three water leaks that occurred on October 3, 2018.

The board was in favor of supporting local contractors and it was noted that Nicholson Trucking and Dig For You currently provide Water Supply and Sewer Support Services in addition to the Village of Waterloo for the town. Mr. Nicholson of Nicholson Trucking agreed to complete the same services as outlined in the Village's agreement for the same rates and has signed an Agreement for Provision of Water Supply/Sewer Support Services. No submittal from Dig For You has been received as of the date of this meeting.

Varick Water District No. 3: Nothing to report.

Varick Water District No. 4: Mr. Karlsen reported that there was a service leak between the meter pit and curb stop located at Goose Watch Winery with an approximate water loss of 37,000 gallons. He reported that the chlorine levels are good in this district.

Town Clerk: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Ben Freier and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report: Supervisor: \$160, NYS Ag & Markets: \$2, Total Disbursements: \$162.

Judge: Ben Freier reported that he has been in contact with the judge and court clerk and will be confirming a date to review their records.

Assessor: Anne Morgan reported that her office is completing field work and preparing for Grievance Day to be held Wednesday, May 29th.

She reported that Finger Lakes Technology Group is suing the town on a PILOT and doesn't want to pay their fire tax. Mrs. Morgan has hired Hancock and Estabrook to represent the town under advisement of the town's attorney. She reviewed the special franchises held by NYSEG, Spectrum and Finger Lake Technologies Group. Mr. Fox requested a list of property exemptions.

Mr. Hayssen reminded the board that Anne Morgan's appointment as assessors will be expiring and asked for a motion to reappointment her.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to appoint Anna Morgan as assessor for a term to expire September 30, 2024.

Planning Board: Mr. Freier knows of someone that may be interested in serving on the Planning Board and will follow up with them over the next month.

Minutes: A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 5, 2019.

Dog Control Report: Bryan McCann submitted his first quarter 2019 DCO report which will be filed with these minutes.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Ben Freier and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk