

February 4, 2020

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, Richard Peterson and Eric Riegel, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier, and Town Attorney Joe Midiri. Also present was Shannan O'Connor, director of the Ovid Library. Absent: Councilman Tom Fox.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Shannon O'Connor, director of the Edith B. Ford Memorial Library in Ovid reviewed their 2019 annual report and the services the library provides using community and ARC volunteers along with workforce placement from the county. She reported that the \$3 million dollar expansion is completed and asked that the board contact her with any suggestions as to how to reach out to Varick residents and for programs the library could offer in addition to the ones currently being held.

Abstract: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 2, General, Vouchers A0020-015 to A0020-031 in the amount of \$112,884.21, Highway, Vouchers DA020-004 to DA020-016 in the amount of \$10,091.86, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS20-006 to SWS20-0012 in the amount of \$32,355.78, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW320-003 to VW320-004 in the amount of \$5,234.15, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW420-004 in the amount of \$980.93, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Voucher SSS20-003 in the amount of \$9,540., Romulus Volunteer Fire Department, Voucher SFR20-001 in the amount of \$61,044, Varick Romulus Department, Voucher SFV20-001 in the amount of \$83,099.

Highway: Superintendent Ben Freier reported that they found antifreeze in the oil pan of the John Deere 544E loader and presented a quote for a complete Bock Assembly Engine from 5 Star Equipment out of Syracuse in the amount of \$16,861.93. He reviewed the quote with the board and said he could remove and install the new engine himself reducing the bill \$4,640 for labor costs. He requested the board's approval to purchase the new engine and associated parts to complete the work in-house.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to authorize Highway Superintendent Ben Freier to purchase a complete Bock Assembly Engine and required parts to repair the John Deere 544E loader in-house at a cost not to exceed \$16,861.93.

He reported that Kris Karlsen will be having surgery on his wrist February 12th and he isn't sure how long he will be out of work as of this meeting. He reported that in case of a snowstorm he would be running the ten-wheeler but would like to hire Randy McCulloch part time to assist in plowing the roads he usually does with his truck. Mrs. Testa stated that Randy McCulloch would need to fill out a job application form to be submitted to Seneca County Personnel office for approval prior to him starting work for the town.

Mr. Freier reported that the town would be receiving an additional \$7,000 in CHIPS funds for 2020.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's Report.

Judge: Mr. Riegel reported that he has left a message with Judge Hogue to complete the required audit and is still waiting to hear back from him.

Water Operator's Report:

Water Operator Monthly Report for January 2020

- Changed Meters
- 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
- Searched for higher water usage leak in Var 3
- Found water leak in Var 3 in mobile home park on RT 336
- Fixed end of driveway on East Lake Rd due to putting in new water service
- Maintained Fire hydrants
- Cleaned shop
- Data logged water usage in each district
- Calculated billing for Romulus RT 89 district
- Installed hydrant markers
- Helped assist on sewer calls
- Helped customers with questions or concerns in each water district

Varick Water District No. 1: Nothing further to report

Seneca Lake Water District: Nothing Further to report

Varick Water District No. 3: Nothing further to report

Varick Water District No. 4: Nothing further to report

Varick Sewer Districts: Mr. Hayssen reported that NYS Department of Environmental Conservation lifted the sewer moratorium within the defined areas of Seneca County Sewer District No. 1 and 2. They have not lifted it for out-of-district users until those municipalities adopt sewer use laws that are equivalent to the County SUL adopted on November 26, 2019. Seneca County needs to submit to the DEC documentation that the Out-of-District SUL has been filed with the department of State and a county certification that the out of district user SUL is at least equivalent to the County's.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Nothing further to report

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Hayssen reported that he received an email from a Romulus resident in Lake Shore Landing who will be building a house and wanted to know if he could connect to the Town of Varick's sewer system. Mr. Hayssen will continue to work with the county to have the moratorium lifted for Varick Sewer 1 and Varick Sewer 2 districts through DEC so new sewer connections can be done.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$310, NYS Ag & Markets: \$17, Total Disbursements: \$327.00

Minutes: A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 7, 2020.

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence:

Remodel of Conference Room: A proposal to drywall over the existing paneling was submitted by Snyder Interiors in the amount of \$1,250 with all prep work being completed by others. Estimates were also submitted by Kenny Carpet and Carpet House to remove and install commercial grade carpeting with a cost not to exceed \$2,500.

A motion by Richard McCulloch and seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to proceed with the remodel of the Town Hall Conference Room, authorizing Donna Karlsen and Angela Testa to complete the hiring and scheduling of the required work to be completed.

It was reported that the Zoning Board and judge had been using the allocated work area in the new office space to hold public meetings and an arraignment. The question arose if this room could be used for meetings open to the public. Joe Midiri stated that the room is not capacity rated by Seneca County Code for such use and therefore should not be used for public meetings. Mrs. Karlsen reported that the intent of that room was to add workspace for the employees of the town and an alternative meeting room for outside groups that do not fall under the open meeting law. She noted that the office used prior to moving into the new office space by the bookkeeper is to be used by the court and the DA as extra office space when needed. The board determined that the Zoning and Planning Boards are required to use the conference room as they fall under the open meetings law and any business conducted by the court should be held in the conference room and designated DA room for the safety of the town staff and people doing business with the town.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously that all meetings that are open to the public and court-related business are to be held in the town hall conference room and designated DA room due to room capacity rating, safety of town employees and scheduling.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Karlsen, Varick Town Clerk