

September 1, 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 Tom Fox, Richard Peterson, Eric Riegel and Richard McCulloch, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, and Town Assessor, Anne Morgan. Also present was Director of Operation for South Seneca Ambulance, Zach Gibeau.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Director of Operations for South Seneca Ambulance, Zach Gibeau, reported that the ambulance board is working on a 2021 budget and looking at a 5 to 6 percent increase from the 2020 budget submittal. He noted that they have been looking at different ways to assess unit charges to the townships and gave examples of call volume, population, or by parcel and stated that for the 2021 budget the unit assessment will remain by parcel. He reported that revenue has gone down due to reduced ambulance calls, reimbursement from Medicaid calls, the additional cost of a paid Director of Operations and increase in payroll has created a gap of approximately 5 to 6 percent between what they bill and what the town's collected through taxes in 2020. He also reported that the proposed 5 to 6 percent increase will include the establishment of a fund balance to replace ambulance rigs. He will have a budget to the town by October 1 for the board's consideration.

Abstract: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel, and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 9, General, Vouchers A0020-103 to A0020-109 in the amount of \$1,727.20, Highway, Vouchers DAO20-070 to DAO20-077 in the amount of \$15,133.31, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW120-016 to VW120-017 in the amount of \$525, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS20-068 to SWS-072 in the amount of \$486,47, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW320-020 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW420-025 to VW420-026 in the amount of \$3,296.56, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS120-030, in the amount of \$187.27, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS20-018 to SSS20-023 in the amount of \$34,001.55.

Highway: Superintendent Ben Freier reported that the Sterling truck has been repaired and all equipment as of this meeting is up and running. A brief discussion was held regarding the need for a part-time employee and rate of pay with no decisions being made at this time.

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

Supervisor Hayssen reported that he and Mrs. Testa will be working on the 2021 Tentative Budget and suspects that a Local Law will be needed to override the 2% tax cap this year.

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: \$255, NYS Ag & Markets: \$30, Total Disbursements: \$285.

Minutes: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of August 4, 2020.

Judge: No report.

Code Enforcement Officer: No report.

Varick Water District No. 1: Nothing to report

Assessor: Anne Morgan requested the board enter into executive session at the conclusion of the regular board meeting to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation.

Seneca Lake Water District: The board again directed Attorney Frank Fisher to write a letter to The Church of the Latter Day Saints informing them a master meter needs to be installed at their expense at the main line that services the Mormon camp. They have until Spring of 2021 to complete this installation. If the installation is not completed, the municipal water supply will be turned off until the requested meter is in place and operational.

Joe Midiri reminded Supervisor Hayssen that further review needs to be done on the proposed contract with the Village of Waterloo as requested by Dennis Benjamin.

Varick Water District No. 3: Nothing to report

Varick Water District No. 4: Nothing to report

Sewer: Mrs. Karlsen reported that she had filed Local Law No.1, Sewer Use Law with the State of New York and received acknowledgement of filing of said law. She has forwarded this acknowledgement to Seneca County Attorney David Ettman who needs to notify NYS DEC of the county's approval of the adopted use law in order to remove the moratorium for future sewer connections by the Town of Varick serviced by Seneca County Sewer District No. 1.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Supervisor Hayssen reported that he received a bill from Blue Heron Construction Company today in the amount 118,256.16 for parts and labor for repair of the pump station for Varick Sewer District No. 2. Matthew Rodenhizer in an email sent with the billing stated that the invoiced amount was more than the submitted agreed amount stating that the bypass pumping cost was almost double than anticipated, material costs were 10k more and labor was 5-7k more than expected. He reduced the bill by Blue Heron Construction's percentage of the entire project from 18.5% to 16%, reduced the MOB/DEMOB fee from \$2,500 to \$1,500 and did not include their percentage on equipment/fuel or their cost for stock items for a total cost savings of \$5,434.20. The discounts reduced the bill to \$112,821.96. Supervisor Hayssen has not had the opportunity to review the supporting documents that accompanied their bill or to discuss the increase in billing amount with Mr. Rodenhizer as of this meeting. Mr. Hayssen reviewed with the board the funds available in Varick Sewer District No. 2 and reported that a loan in an approximate amount of \$85,000 will be needed to cover the expenses incurred by this repair. In order to offset the costs associated with this repair and future operation and maintenance costs, it was recommended that an increase in the quarterly operation and maintenance fee be raised from \$33 to \$48, a \$15 increase beginning with the 2020 fourth quarter billing. A public hearing will be held prior to approval of this increase.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to hold a public hearing October 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Varick Town Hall on increasing Varick Sewer District No. 2 operation and maintenance cost to \$48 per quarter.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve a loan from Seneca Lake Water District to Varick Sewer District No. 2 in the amount of \$85,000 to pay the repair bills for Varick Sewer District No. 2 pump station until outside funding can be secured to pay back said loan.

It was recommended that the supporting documentation submitted by Blue Heron Construction be reviewed prior to full payment being issued.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to direct Supervisor Hayssen with the assistance of the Sewer Operator and Yaws Environment to review the back-up documentation substantiating the billing submitted by Blue Heron Construction, and upon approval, authorize payment in full not to exceed \$112,821.96 or a portion thereof as determined by Supervisor Hayssen.

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence: There has been a request by residents of both Route 89 and East Lake Road for a speed reduction on both highways. Supervisor Hayssen is working with NYS Department of Transportation requesting a study by done on Route 89. It was noted that a study was done a few years ago on East Lake Road, with no recommended reduction in speed from the department.

Jeanne Pasmus is requesting assistance from the town and county to help them obtain a portion of land to provide them with enough property to install a septic system to service their residence on Route 89.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that she received an email from NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation informing the municipalities that a virtual joint public hearing will be held on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 2:00 PM to accept public comments on the Draft 2021 Intended Use Plans for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and revisions to the CWSRF and DWSRF Hardship Policies.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried to enter executive session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation at 8:10 p.m.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:40 p.m.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Donna Karlsen, Varick Town Clerk