

April 6, 2021

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 Peterson, Eric Riegel and Richard McCulloch, Town Clerk Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent Ben Freier, Bookkeeper Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town Frank Fisher, Water/Sewer Operator Ben Karlsen and Planning Board representative Thomas Bjorkman and Mark Benjamin from Seneca Meadows, Inc.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Mark Benjamin from Seneca Meadows, Inc. provided a flyer entitled Neighbor Notes, Spring and Summer 2021 which informed the board about current and upcoming construction projects, 2021 landfill gas installations, odor control updates and their application to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to utilize the middle area (Valley Infill) of the existing landfill footprint. Mr. Benjamin also provided information regarding the open house to be held July 25 from 12 to 4:00 p.m.

Abstract: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract 4, General Fund, Vouchers A0021-047 to A0021-056 in the amount of \$3,225.78, DA021-021 to DA021-029 in the amount of \$6,725.53, Varick Water District No. 1, Voucher VW121-010 in the amount of \$25, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS21-029 to SWS21-036 in the amount of \$33,155.75, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW321-006 in the amount of \$25, Varick Water District No. 4, VW421-011 to VW421-013 in the amount of \$3,815.74, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS121-014 in the amount of \$187.27, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS21-007 to SSS21-011 in the amount of \$2,265.95.

Highway: Highway Superintendent, Ben Frier reported that this year's clean-up dates will be Wednesday, June 23 through Saturday June 26th. Weekday hours of operation will be from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to Noon. Empire-Seneca, Inc. will provide dumpsters for \$200 each and he has reached an agreement with Seneca Meadows for this year that they will not charge the town dumping fees.

Mr. Freier also reported that he met with Hunt Engineers and requested that they provide an engineering plan to replace a concrete box on Kings Corner's Road, just off of Willers Road. They have not provided him a quote as of this meeting.

Mrs. Testa reported that a highway CD came due and wanted direction as to whether it should be reinvested into a CD or remain cashed out. Mr. Frier reviewed his anticipated expenses for roads and machinery and funding from CHIPS and the Winter RECOVERY, Pave NY program. It was determined that these funds would be reinvested into a CD until December.

Judge: Eric Riegel reported he examined the 2020 Varick Town Court records and based on the information provided to him, fines collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town as required by law and Appendix 10-Annual Checklist for Review of Justice Court Records completed. As requested by the State of New York Unified Court System a copy of said audit and board resolution acknowledging that the required examination was conducted be sent to them.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously acknowledging that the records of the Varick Town Court have been duly examined and that the fines therein collected have been turned over to the proper officials of the Town as required by law based on information provided by Court Clerk Andrew Herkovic and Judge Jeffrey Hogue and Appendix 10-Annual Checklist for Review of Justice Court Records completed.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen: Yes
Richard McCulloch: Yes
Eric Riegel: Yes
Richard Peterson: Yes
Tom Fox: Absent
So Carried

Supervisor: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the March 2021 Supervisor's Report.

Supervisor Hayssen reported that he met with the state auditors and once he receives their written report, he will review it with the bookkeeper.

Mrs. Testa reported that Governor Cuomo in 2020 authorized the recognition of June 19th, known as Juneteenth, a holiday for state employees, who if not required to work, shall be entitled to leave at full pay without charge to existing accruals and for those employees who are required to work, they shall receive one day of compensatory time. Considering this order, Mrs. Testa is asking permission from the board to add this holiday to the list of town paid holidays for full time employees.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried to list Juneteenth Day as a paid holiday for full time employees.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen: Yes
Richard McCulloch: Yes
Richard Peterson: Yes
Eric Riegel: No
Tom Fox: Absent
Yes: 3 No: 1
So Carried

Supervisor Hayssen reported that ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) is funding that allows small local government to support vital public health and economic responses to the pandemic, provide premium pay to essential workers, replace lost government revenue to prevent harmful cuts to government services and make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to lay the foundation for a stronger economic recovery. Non-entitlement units of Local Government will receive a distribution of funds from their respective state government in proportion to population but are required to have a valid DUNS number and SAM registration. Further information will be provided regarding this funding as it becomes available.

Water/Sewer: Nicholson Trucking LLC submitted written notice declining to renew his contract for sewer and water repair services. The board will look into securing names of contractors to assist in repair of water and sewer lines.

Varick Water District No. 1: Nothing further to report.

Seneca Lake Water District: It was reported that the Village of Waterloo approved to raise the water rate to Seneca Lake Water District to a cost of \$3.58 per thousand gallons of water. The Varick board had discussed this proposed rate increase at the March meeting and proposed a motion to increase Seneca Lake Water District water rate 25 cents to reflect the Village's increase this year. It was noted by Supervisor Hayssen that the board did not increase the 2020 water rates after the Village's increase that year and recommended that board increase the water rate with the 2021 second quarter billing 27 cents to cover this year's increase of 25 cents and 2 cents of the 20-cent increase from 2020.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to rescind the motion made at the March 2, 2021 board meeting which was as follows: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to raise Seneca Lake Water District's water rate 25 cents to mirror the Village of Waterloo's proposed water rate increase to be voted on by the Village board at their meeting to be held March 8, 2021. This rate will be effective with the third quarter 2021 billing.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to hold a public hearing May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Varick Town Hall, 4782, Route 96 regarding the proposed water rate increase of 27 cents per thousand gallons of water to Seneca Lake Water District consumers effective with the 2021 second quarter water billing.

A letter notifying Seneca County Water District will be sent if a rate increase is approved by the town board once the public hearing is held.

Varick Water District No. 3: Nothing to report

Varick Water District No. 4: It was reported that there is a suspected water leak that the water department is looking into.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Nothing to report.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Ben Karlsen reported that they have five out of the ten new pumps that were ordered left. There are seven pumps that need to be rebuilt and it is uncertain as to when Bill Kolbeck will get to them. It was suggested that we look at outsourcing the repair of these pumps and will look at a company in Auburn to complete this service. Mr. Karlsen will also be contacting Siewert regarding the warranty on some of the pumps that have become inoperable.

Mr. Karlsen also reported due to the windstorm experienced on March 26th, electric was out at the pump station for more than 24 hours. Yaws reported that they did not have to have Brewers come

to pump out the system. Mr. Karlsen has been exercising the generator and would like to have this hardwired with an automatic start when the electric goes down.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report; Supervisor, \$515, Ag & Markets: \$3, Total Disbursements: \$518.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of March 2, 2021.

Planning Board: Thomas Bjorkman updated the board on the proposed noise ordinance and the addition to the dog ordinance. The Planning Board did review the noise ordinance with the sheriff's department who made suggestions for its enforceability. The board requested Frank Fisher to prepare the paperwork for a Local Law for the board's review and consideration at the May meeting.

The board received a letter of interest in becoming a member of the Town of Varick Planning Board from Lauren Burling who lives at 2956 Ernsberger Road. As previously discussed by the town board they would like to see representation from the center of the town to fill the vacant position. It was noted that Richard Olsen had expressed interest in coming off the Planning Board. If he should still desire to do so, the town board indicated they would entertain the idea of appointing Lauren Burling as his replacement. Tom Fox provided Linda Mastellar, Chairperson of the Planning Board, three names of people who reside in the center of the town who may be interested in becoming a member of this board. Mr. Hayssen reported he had discussed the vacancies with Mrs. Mastellar who agrees that the Planning Board needs representation the center of the town. No action was taken at this time.

New Business, Old Business & Correspondence:

South Seneca Ambulance: Mrs. Testa reported that South Seneca Ambulance provided February accounting reports and March meeting minutes. It was noted that in the South Seneca meeting minutes Kevin McCord reported that South Seneca Ambulance does not have to provide, under the contract, accounting reports to the town and also reported incorrect information in regard to the Varick Town Board's stance on this matter. Given the uncertainty of the qualifications of the new South Seneca Ambulance bookkeeper and South Seneca's interpretation of the wording regarding the required accounting reports to be submitted to the Town of Varick, the Varick Board unanimously agreed to continue payments under the 2020 contract monthly until further review and consideration.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Donna Karlsen, Varick Town Clerk