

November 6, 2013

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 Peter McDonald, John Saeli, and Kathy Russo, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angel Testa, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Attorney for the Town, Steve Ricci, Assessor, Anne Morgan, Reporter, Anita Glover, South Seneca Representatives, Jeanette Case and Jason Henderson, Seneca County Water Management representative, Mary Anne Kowaiski and town of Varick resident, Phil Knapp.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to open the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget of the Town of Varick, and Preliminary Budget of the Special District Fund Budgets and adopt Fire Protection units.

Mr. Hayssen presented the 2014 Preliminary budget for review and asked for any comments or questions. None were presented and he asked for a motion to close the public hearing.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to close the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Petitioners: Mary Anne Kowaiski handed out some information regarding the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan. In her presentation she explained that the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan was funded by a Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant (LWRP) through New York State Department of State. This plan was written by three partner organizations: Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council and Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board. The plan is an update of the 1999 report, Setting a Course for Seneca Lake: The State of the Lake Watershed, in which an intermunicipal organization named Seneca Lake Area Partners of Five Counties (SLAP-5) was formed. The work of the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan was overseen by a Project Advisory Committee and coordinated with SLAP-5. With the culmination of the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan it is in the best interest of the water quality of Seneca Lake to form an intermunicipal organization of the five counties and 40 municipal governments that fall within the Seneca Lake watershed to implement the recommendations of the Seneca Lake Watershed Management Plan. The intermunicipal group will replace SLAP-5 and work within the confines of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding she presented to the board for their review.

She briefly discussed the grant funds that will support a study being completed of the area creek's contaminants, the source of these contaminants, and corrective measures that can vary depending on the source of contaminants, and specifically noted Reeder Creek in the Town of Varick.

Court Report: Mr. Ricci will research and then advise the board on how to proceed with the audit of the judge's books.

South Seneca Ambulance: It was reported that the proposed amount for the four towns of Romulus, Ovid, Varick and Lodi to collect per parcel is \$63.638. It was noted that the 2013 disbursement of tax funds are being done quarterly, but no determination was made as to how 2014 funds would be disbursed. Jason explained that the cost is higher as they are no longer servicing the town of Covert. He also reported that currently there is no funds budgeted for a rotation to replace ambulances, which should eventually be included. A discussion of funds received from the dog show was also held.

Attorney Ricci, when discussing the amount to be budgeted for South Seneca Ambulance, reported that no funds should be collected until a district is formed. He presented a resolution for the board to pass stating the tasks and the order in which they need to be completed for establishing an ambulance district. The proposed ambulance district will be known as the Varick Ambulance District.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the resolution for formation of an ambulance district and the order of tasks for establishing said ambulance district with statements of tasks.

It was suggested that Mike Karlsen, in the Real Property Tax office at the county, be contacted to see how the Town of Covert did their map, plan and report for their district.

Assessor: Ann Morgan reported that the deeds are current through 9/15/13. She also will be holding a workshop regarding the new agricultural forms and explaining the agriculture ceilings. She also reported that the Assessment Board of Review needs another member and she would like that person from the east side of the town if possible.

The board congratulated Ann on her retirement as Four Town Assessor and welcomed her back as the town's newly appointed assessor.

Highway: Mr. McCulloch reported that they cleaned out the ditches along Swamp Road and they are prepared for the winter months.

Code Enforcement: The board reviewed the written October report submitted by Mr. Colton. A discussion was held regarding a pole barn being used as a warehouse to store boats.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: Nothing to report.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Nothing to report.

Varick Water District No. 1: Concern was expressed by a resident regarding the formatting of the water bills and the difficulty they have understanding them. The water break in the hamlet of Romulus is also reflected in the billing from the county for third quarter.

Seneca Lake Water: It was reported that there was a very small leak in the main line at Walt Wolverton's that was repaired by the Village of Waterloo.

Varick Water District No. 3: The village of Waterloo resubmitted their bill for \$1,000 to complete the annual water billing for this district. Mr. Hayssen will continue to negotiate the cost for this service and the bill is to be held for payment.

Mr. Hayssen reported that this district is in poor financial condition and recommended that the water rate be raised 50 cents per 1,000. Mr. Saeli was not in favor of this, and would like to consider other options. The board discussed reducing the cost per thousand gallons of water to Water District No. 3 consumers and subsidizing this reduction using Seneca Lake Water District's mark up in cost per thousand gallons of water. This same suggestion was made several years ago regarding water billing rates for Water District No. 1, but no action was taken.

Mr. Ricci will suggest to the Town of Fayette, that a joint meeting be held to discuss increasing the water rates in Varick Water 3 and Fayette Water 5.

There are still a lot of residents that have not connected to the water line. It was suggested to offer free water testing in the spring as an incentive program for residents to connect. Mr. McDonald will work with the health department on this and draft a letter to be sent in the spring of 2014.

Varick Water District No. 4: Mr. Hayssen reported that as the result of his many phone calls and questions, the DOT policy on bonding that was currently being applied to this project will be changed and will no longer be a statutory requirement.

Tim Buhl stated that he sent approved submittals to the contractor for supplies to be purchased, and according to the contractor, he has not received them yet. Mr. Hayssen will continue to follow up on this. Steve Ricci will continue to work on obtaining the last easement.

A discussion was held regarding the water rate agreement with the Town of Fayette which states that the price per gallon of water sold to the Town of Varick will be 10 cents above the Town of Fayette's cost.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$173.51, NYS Ag & Markets: \$14, NYS Environmental Conservation: \$137.01, State Health Dept, \$22.00, Total Disbursements: \$439.00.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the written Supervisor's Report.

Personnel: Brian McCann submitted a written Dog Control report to cover the period of February 2013 to April 21, 2013.

Minutes: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of October 1, 2013.

Abstract: A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried approve Abstract No. 11, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS13-048 to SWS13-49 in the amount of \$94,309.99, Varick Sewer No. 2, SSS13-026 to SSS13-28 in the amount of \$7,851.68, Varick Water @, VW113-17 to VW113-18 in the amount of \$5,533.11, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS113-29 to VS113-31 in the amount of \$2,509.88, VW313-22 to vW313-23 in the amount of \$1,870.07, Highway, DA013-79 to DA013-87 in the amount of \$34,870.11, General, A0013-146 to A0013-158 in the amount of \$3,817.05

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to approve payment of Water District No. 4 Capital expenses as follows:

Municipal Solutions: 4198	\$ 555.82
4197	\$1220.54

The bill from Seneca County Water District No. 1 for water usage for Water District No. 3 will be held for further review.

New Business, Old Business and Correspondence: Mr. McDonald reported an incident that occurred with the election inspectors and the cleaning personnel on Election Day. This will be addressed by Mrs. Karlsen and Mrs. Testa.

With the addition of Water District No. 4 and South Seneca Ambulance figures, the town's budget will exceed the 2% cap set by General Municipal Law § 3-C. A local law will need to be passed to override the tax levy limit established by this municipal law and a public hearing held on this local law.

A Resolution to Introduce Local Law #1 of the Year 2013 to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law § 3-C was made by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously. A copy of this resolution in its entirety will be attached to the approved minutes.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried to amend the 2014 Preliminary Budget to include the South Seneca Ambulance unit per parcel fee of 63.638 on 703 parcels and to include the Assessor's budget figures once confirmed by Mr. Hayssen.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to enter into executive session to discuss pending litigation and information received from MRB Group at 9:30 p.m.

A motion by Peter McDonald, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:45 p.m.

The board will direct Hancock & Estabrook to forward MRB Groups engineering report to the Syracuse Constructors' attorney.

A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by Peter McDonald and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:00

Respectfully submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk