

May 1, 2018

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, Tom Fox, Eric Riegel, and Richard Peterson, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, Reporter, Anita Glover and Michelle Herman.

**Residents to Address the Board:** Michele Herman questioned the board about the possible water rate increase by the county that she read about in the newspaper and made reference to the editorials written by Mary Anne Kowalski pertaining to Seneca County water district. Mr. Hayssen explained that the issues Ms. Kowalski referenced pertains to Seneca County administration and operation of the county water district, and he indicated that the County has issues that they have to address. Mr. Freier reported that the county is looking at replacing approximately one mile of water line, however, Mr. Hayssen reported they have not determined how they are going to fund this project. Mr. Hayssen informed Mrs. Herman that the Village of Waterloo will be raising their rates effective with the third quarter water billing. This increase in rates will affect Seneca Lake Water District and Seneca County Water District No. 1 as they purchase water from Seneca Lake Water District. He reported a discussion was held at the county level regarding Seneca County repairing and utilizing the County's original pump station. This option had been researched in the past and found at that time to be cost prohibitive.

**Abstract:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 5, General, Vouchers A0018-71 to A0018-80 in the amount of \$8,092.22, Highway, Vouchers DA018-31 to DA018-35 in the amount of \$3,205.40, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW118-012 to VW118-014 in the amount of \$13,095.11, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS18-023 to SWS18-027 in the amount of \$27,670.10, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW318-005 to VW318-007 in the amount of \$9,002.23, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW418-014 to VW418-015 in the amount of \$1,403.38, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS118-015 to VS118-018 in the amount of \$4,895.52.

**Highway:** A discussion was held proposing to the tax payers at the general election in November a change to the Highway Superintendent position from an elected to an appointed position by the board. The board reviewed surrounding townships that have made the same proposition and noted that the proposition was turned down in each case when put up for vote. Councilmen Tom Fox, Eric Riegel and Ben Freier felt that it was best to leave the decision to the tax payers. Mr. Peterson argued that although the town has been fortunate in having a dedicated highway superintendent currently, the board would have control over the hours the superintendent worked, if an appointed position was put in place.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Ben Freier and so carried to take no action on presenting to the tax payers a change in elected to appointed position for highway superintendent.

Roll Call:

Robert Hayssen:	Yes
Ben Freier:	Yes
Tom Fox:	Yes
Eric Riegel:	Yes

Richard Peterson: No  
Yes – 4 No - 1  
So Carried

**Judge Report:** Mr. Hayssen reported that Judy Brignall resigned as Varick Court Clerk effective Saturday, April 14, 2018. Mrs. Karlsen reported she thought Judge Hogue indicated he was considering replacing her with an experienced court clerk who is currently in that position, but she was unsure as to who that individual was. Mr. Fox would like to see a report generated breaking down the cost to the town to account for the funds taken by Julie Dougherty and submitted to the court system versus what the town is receiving in revenue from current business. He suggested that the town continue to seek restitution from Julie Dougherty for these costs. It was suggested by the Town Attorney, Joe Midiri, that the cost in legal fees to seek this restitution could be significant and would have to be considered prior to making any final determination as to how the board wishes to proceed.

Mrs. Karlsen indicated that through discussions with Judge Hogue and newly hired court clerk, Andrew Herkovic they are still learning their respective positions and had reached out and met with two women from the Seventh Judicial District for direction from them as to how the work should be completed and what is expected from their office. A discussion was held as to how the board can assist them in completing the outstanding work left by Julie Dougherty and provide them with the knowledge and training they need to move forward. Mr. Hayssen will contact Judge Dollinger, from the Seventh Judicial for his suggestions.

**Bookkeeper:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve the bookkeeper's report.

**Code Enforcement Officer:** DEC is looking into the building permit issued to Earl Martin by the county for property located on the former army depot.

**Water Districts:** Water Operator, Ben Karlsen provided a written report which will be attached to these minutes.

**Water District No. 1:** Replaced one meter that was unable to be read by the Village of Waterloo.

**Seneca Lake Water District:** Replacement of meters and transponders are continuing. Bob reported that he has not signed the settlement agreement with Seneca County because they have not clarified how the water usage will be determined if maintenance to broken and leaking water mains are repaired during the specified period of time.

**Water District No. 3:** Ben is continuing to work with the Town of Fayette to locate a potential water leak in the system. They are systematically eliminating possible water problems in order to locate the leak.

**Water District No. 4:** Seneca Falls water district notified the town that their chlorination system became inoperable and asked that Water District No. 4 flush water from a hydrant in order to raise the chlorine levels in their connecting water districts. Dom Bell, from Seneca Falls stated the

district would not be responsible for the cost of the gallons of water flushed. Mr. Hayssen reported that the district flushed 319,631 gallons of water. Mrs. Karlsen reported this amount to the Town of Fayette to be adjusted off Varick Water District 4's water bill and so they can report this to the Town of Seneca Falls to be credited off the Town of Fayette's bill.

**Town Clerk's Report:** A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor: \$235, NYS Ag & Markets: \$7. Total Disbursements: \$242.

Mrs. Karlsen reported that the spring and fall flyer was sent to the printers April 6<sup>th</sup>. She has been following up on its distribution since that date and finally received her mailed copy on Monday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. There appears to be a delay with the delivery from the postal service.

**Minutes:** A motion by Ben Freier, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 2, 2018 with the correction of the spelling of "Freier".

**Personnel:** Michelle Andrews is continuing to prepare for the Summer Recreations program scheduled to begin in July.

**Assessor:** No report.

**Planning Board:** Ben Freier reported that he did discuss the vacancy to this board with Doug Dickenson and he might be interested but would like to know more about what the board does. It was suggested that he contact Linda Mastellar, chairwoman of the board.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the Town of Fayette had held a public hearing on their revision to the Zoning Code. Joe Midiri researched the requirement of a SEQR as it pertains to the suggested revisions to the Varick Code regarding the language and definition of "trash and waste processing" in the Town of Varick Zoning Code and feels it might only require a SEQR short form. Once the planning board has completed its revisions and present it to the town board for approval, a resolution will need to be introduced to make it a local law and a public hearing will need to be held on the proposed local law.

**New Business, Old Business, Correspondence:** Mrs. Karlsen provided a copy of an email that was sent to Linda Mastellar from Dave Bollech pertaining to vacation rentals. Mr. Bollech referenced a news story about vacation rentals on South Lake Tahoe. Mr. Hayssen asked Joe Midiri to research the zoning South Lake Tahoe has implanted pertaining to vacation rentals for the Planning Board. It was noted that the Planning Board is working on the zoning pertaining to vacation rentals in the town of Varick.

Mr. Hayssen presented an invitation from Hillside Children's Center for a Memorial Day Celebration at the Varick Campus on May 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 9 a.m.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Ben Freier and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Donna Karlsen Varick Town Clerk