

February 2, 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 McCulloch and Eric Riegel, and Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier. Also present was Town of Romulus Supervisor David Hayes. Absent: Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town, Joe Midiri, and Councilman Richard Peterson and Tom Fox.

**Petitioners to Address the Board:** Supervisor Hayes presented the board a copy of the joint sewer district agreement for the Hamlet of Romulus which is situated in both towns dated March 11, 1977. It is Supervisor Hayes' opinion that since the bond has been paid off, the town of Romulus should not be responsible for paying any costs related to the pump station that services only Varick residents and referenced a paragraph in the agreement he felt substantiated his opinion. He indicated the Town of Romulus would continue to pay for expenses associated with the pump station which is shared by both towns. Supervisor Hayssen noted that the understanding of this agreement for the past 44 years has been that the joint district share all operation and maintenance costs incurred 55% Romulus and 45% Varick, regardless of what district the costs were generated from. These percentages were determined by the number of units assessed in each district. Supervisor Hayssen briefly reviewed Romulus' units and reported that over time someone has reduced the number of Romulus units which has resulted in a decrease in their revenue. He recommended Supervisor Hayes review the table the assessed unit charges were based on and confirm that units are being assessed accurately starting with Romulus Central School. After further discussion, the board informed Supervisor Hayes they will turn this matter over to the town's attorney.

**Abstract:** Amotion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Eric Riegel and so carried unanimously Abstract No. 2, General, Vouchers A0021-014 to A0021-028 in the amount of \$3,029.65, Highway, Vouchers DAO21-004 to DAO21-011 in the amount of \$1,336.11, Varick Water District No. 1, Vouchers VW121-003 to VW121-007 in the amount of \$7,826.37, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS21-008 to SWS21-018 in the amount of \$57,139.72, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW321-003 to VW321-004 in the amount of \$5,197.35, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW421-005 to VW421-006 in the amount of \$1,121.45, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS121-004 to VS121-005 in the amount of \$2,767.27, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS21-003 to SSS21-005 in the amount of \$19,213.16.

**Highway:** Nothing to report.

**Water:** Water Operator Monthly Report for January 2021

- 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
- Data logged water usage in each district
- Answered questions dealing with each water district and sewer system

- Called in Dig Tickets for upcoming projects
- Changed Meters
- Cleaned shop
- Fixed broken curb stops
- Repaired Water break in Var 1
- Worked on and got generator working for sewer #2
- Fixed and replaced grinder pumps
- Fixed water shutoff in Var 1
- Serviced water truck

**Village of Waterloo Agreement for Water Supply Services:** Jim Bromka from the Village of Waterloo dropped off this revised agreement for Supervisor Hayssen’s review and consideration the end of January. After review, Supervisor Hayssen recommend to the Village of Waterloo the following changes:

1. Under “Metering” where it states “Should a meter stop functioning or otherwise have clearly inaccurate readings, the flow of water shall continue and **the water usage shall be estimated based upon the usage of similar time period**” to read “**the water usage shall be the water used by Seneca Lake Water District Users plus Seneca County Water District No. 1.** He noted that based on previous experience when the master meter failed to work properly, it took the Village almost a year to get it replaced. He reported that these estimated bills reflected the prior year’s water breaks, resulting in overbilling by the Village of Waterloo and a substantial loss of revenue to Seneca Lake Water district.
2. Supervisor Hayssen recommended that the master meter generating the Village of Waterloo quarterly billing be read the same day as the meters are read in Seneca Lake Water District. This would enable both the Village of Waterloo and Seneca Lake Water District the ability to monitor water loss.

Supervisor Hayssen reported that the Village felt they had conceded and amended the originally submitted agreement by agreeing to bill on a quarterly basis and was not agreeable to making any further changes to the proposed agreement. It was noted that the amended agreement submitted was not signed by the Village of Waterloo when submitted to Supervisor Hayssen for his signature. Supervisor Hayssen will continue working with the Village regarding this agreement.

On February 2, 2021 Supervisor Hayssen received an emailed letter from the Village of Waterloo, Mayor Jack O’Connor, giving a 90 notice of termination of Agreements for billing services for Varick Sewer District No. 1, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Varick Water District No. 1, Seneca Lake Water District, Varick Water District No. 3 and Varick Water District No. 4. As of Wednesday, May 5th, 2021 the Village of Waterloo will no longer read meters, calculated, prepare, or mail quarterly billings, post penalties, collect payments or levy past due balances to taxes. The Village will mail out all April 1, 2021 bills, along with a notice informing all customers of the billing changes and collect payment until May 5th, 2021 – when penalties will be applied. All billings will then be transferred to the Town of Varick. This letter also informed the districts that the Village will not be renewing any of the Provision of Water Supply Support Services Agreements

The board reviewed the costs related to having the Village perform this service. It was noted that the board has discussed previously the advantages of doing this billing in-house, staffing and associated costs. The town clerk, bookkeeper and water operator were in support of bringing the billing in-house and will look at separation of duties and expense related to the added responsibilities. The board approved to move forward to seek updated pricing for a billing program and equipment to read the meters.

**Varick Water 1:** Nothing further to report.

**Seneca Lake Water:** Nothing further to report

**Varick Water District No. 3:** Nothing further to report.

**Varick Water District No. 4:** Nothing further to report.

**Varick Sewer District No. 1:** The town attorney will review the joint agreement between the Town of Romulus and Town of Varick and report back to the board.

**Varick Sewer District No. 2:** Nothing to report.

**Planning Board:** Nothing to report.

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

**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: \$220, NYS Ag & Markets: \$14, Total Disbursements: \$234.

**Minutes:** A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of January 5, 2021 with the addition of Councilman Richard Peterson's absence being noted.

**Old Business, New Business, Correspondence:**

South Seneca Ambulance revised contract was received, however, as stipulated in the prior agreement and in the proposed agreement, the board has not received December 2020 or January 2021 required reports. The board agreed to send a request to the ambulance for these reports and to withhold the first quarter payment until the reports are received, reviewed and approved by the board.

The board approved the purchase of Cyber Security insurance and will submit the required paperwork to Eastern Shore.

Supervisor Hayssen directed Joe Midiri to complete an Emergency Plan for the board to review as required by Governor Cuomo's signed legislation.

Supervisor Hayssen reported that Sally Kenyon has completed her term on the Seneca County Planning Board and is no longer eligible to serve. William Squires expressed interest in representing the Town on this board and sought approval from the board.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve William Squires to serve on the Seneca County Planning Board as a representative for the Town of Varick.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Karlsen,  
Varick Town Clerk