

March 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 Tom Fox and Richard McCulloch, Town Clerk Donna Karlsen, Highway Superintendent Ben Freier, Water/Sewer Operator Ben Karlsen, Bookkeeper Angela Testa, Attorney for the Town Joe Midiri and Assessor Anne Morgan. Absent: Richard Peterson and Eric Riegel.

Abstract: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 3, General, Vouchers A0021-035 to A0021-041 in the amount of \$3,528.85, Highway, DA021-006 to Dao21-020 in the amount of \$2,755.59, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS21-020 to SWS21-022 in the amount of \$1,063.77, Varick Water District No. 4, VW421-008 in the amount of \$1,755.68, Varick Sewer District No. 1, VS121-010 in the amount of \$187.27, Varick Sewer District No. 2, SSS21-006 in the amount of \$665.

Hunt Engineers submitted an invoice which was tabled for payment until further research could be done on funding and work completed.

Highway: Ben Frier reported that the mowing tractor needs to be replaced and reviewed the funds in his accounts. He reviewed the costs of new and used tractors and asked the board to provide him with a recommended budget for this purchase. Currently, he is recommending purchasing used due to budget constraints. Joe Midiri reported that the bid process would be required on both used and new purchases. Mr. Frier also proposed the possibility of renting for this mowing season and budgeting for this purchase in 2022. The board recommended that he prepare a spec sheet in preparation of going out to bid and indicated a special meeting by the board could be called to approve the bid specs and move forward with the bid process.

Spring Clean-Up: Supervisor Hayssen reported that the town budgeted for only one town clean-up this year. It was recommended that it be held in the month of June. Mr. Freire will check the availability of dumpster for that month and set the dates for clean-up accordingly. He recommended that if a newsletter goes out that something be put in it regarding residents pushing snow into the roadway and the hazard it causes.

Supervisor: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's report.

The board reviewed correspondence received from Kevin McCord from South Seneca Ambulance who pointed out that in section 8 Continuation of Services it states "if ambulance's services continue to be provided by the request of the Town beyond the expiration of the term hereof, the terms of this Agreement shall continue on a monthly basis unless and until the parties enter into a subsequent written agreement."

It was noted that some of the reports requested by the board from the ambulance have not been submitted yet and it was recommended that the town continue under the 2020 agreement and pay

monthly as pointed out by Mr. McCord based on the 2020 agreement. The board tabled further action on the proposed 2021 contract until the reports have been provided and reviewed.

Judge: Nothing to report.

Code: Nothing to report

Assessor: Assessor Anne Morgan reported that she has been taking applications and taxable status date was March 1, 2021. She reported that she received no direction from the Real Property Tax Office with regards to tax exemptions on property owned by the Finger Lakes Land Bank which affected tax amounts collected by the county, towns and schools.

Zoning Board: Supervisor Hayssen reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be holding a public hearing on a use Variance applied by Mr. Martin to allow the housing of individuals in group settings in the Small Business Park and Institutional District. The Varick Zoning does not allow for housing of individuals of any kind outside of the Institutional setting, within the Small Business Park and Institutional District. The Town has issued a Notice of Violation for the current housing of individuals at the former Hillside Children's Center. Supervisor Hayssen would like approval for the zoning board to hire Attorney Wendy Marsh to represent the town's zoning board regarding this issue as Midey, Mirras and Ricci reported a conflict of interest.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to hire Wendy Marsh to represent the town's zoning board with regards to the use variance applied by Earl Martin.

Water:

Water Operator Monthly Report for February 2021

- Marked out Dig Safety's.
- Retrieved 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.
- Changed Meters.
- Fixed and Repaired frozen water meters.
- Exercised generator for Sewer District #2.
- Fixed and replaced grinder pumps.
- Serviced water truck.
- Met with badger meter Rep to go over the purchase of meter reading equipment.
- Plowed meter pits and shop driveway when needed.
- Shoveled out fire hydrants.
- Ordered supplies for upcoming projects.
- Cleaned shop.

Mr. Karlsen reported that he will be placing an order for meters as he received notification the price will be increasing in the month of March.

Quotes were submitted by Schmidt's and Williamson Law for programming in order for the Town of Varick offices and Water Department to take over the billing from the Village of Waterloo.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the purchase of required equipment and training to begin billing and collecting water and sewer billing effective with the second quarter of 2021.

Varick Water District No. 1: Nothing to report.

Seneca Lake Water District: Supervisor Hayssen received a letter from the Village of Waterloo, Mayor Jack O'Connor dated February 12th indicating a raise in water rates per thousand to \$3.58 which he feels will be approved at the Villages March 8, 2021 board meeting. The cost currently is \$3.33 per thousand. It was noted the Village of Waterloo raised their water rates 20 cents per thousand gallons of water in 2020, however, Seneca Lake Water District did not raise the water rates to its consumers, but absorbed this cost increase. Supervisor Hayssen recommended that Seneca Lake Water District raise the water rate to mirror the Villages rate increase for 2021 of 25 cents based on the Villages March 8th meeting.

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. **(Note: This motion was rescinded at the April 6, 2021 meeting)**

A public hearing will be held prior to final approval of a water rate increase.

With regards to the Agreement for Water Supply Services, it is the opinion of Mayor O'Connor the Village made substantive revisions to its standard agreement language per Supervisor Hayssen's request and stated that if these revisions are now not considered to be sufficient for renewal, then the Village will be forced to consider this to be an out-of-contract water supply relationship. As of this meeting Mayor O'Connor has not provided any detail as requested by Supervisor Hayssen as to what an out-of-contract water supply relationship is. The board reviewed the unsigned proposal by the Village of Waterloo. A brief discussion was held regarding the billing of unmetered water by the Village when it is determined the master meter is not functioning properly. The town board directed Supervisor Hayssen to prepare, sign and send to the Village of Waterloo the Town of Varick's proposed Agreement For Water Supply Services For And On Behalf Of The Town Of Varick to the Village of Waterloo which addressed this concern for the Villages review and signature.

A motion by Richard McCulloch, Seconded by Tom Fox directing Supervisor Hayssen to prepare, sign and send to the Village of Waterloo the Town of Varick's Proposed Agreement For Water Supply Services For And On Behalf Of The Town of Varick for the Village's approval and signature.

Varick Water District No. 3: Mr. Karlsen reported he is installing meter replacements.

Varick Water District No. 4: Mr. Karlsen is still monitoring the accuracy on the master meter.

Varick Sewer District No. 1.: Supervisor Hayssen reported that he continues to work with Romulus Supervisor Hayes pertaining to this joint district with regards to expenses and sewer rates. Supervisor Hayes did agree to continue to pay Romulus' share of expenses currently.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Karlsen reported that he has been replacing grinder pumps. He reported that there are several pumps that need to be repaired by Mr. Kolbeck, who reported to him that the parts are now more accessible subsequent to COVID.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's report: Supervisor: \$20, NYS Ag & Markets: \$5, Total Disbursements: \$25.

Minutes: A motion by Richard McCulloch, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of February 2, 2021.

New Business, Old Business, Correspondence:

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to reappoint John Sensenig to the Assessment Board of Review for a term of five years.

Mary Anne Kowalski sent an email to the board requesting they consider a resolution on the Greenidge Power Plant asking that the Town of Torey impose a moratorium on expansion of bitcoin mining on Seneca Lake. She provided information and a sample resolution for the board's consideration. Discussion was held regarding validity of the information provided. No action by the board regarding this matter was taken at this time.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard McCulloch and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk