

Varick Town Board

February 3, 2009

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 John Saeli, Kathy Russo, and Richard Peterson, and Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen. Absent: Councilman Jeff Case, Attorney John Sipos, Bookkeeper, Carol Sipos.

Privilege of the Floor: None

Seneca Lake Water: Donald Hagen was hired to repair the furnace and give an estimate on repair of the broken water lines which resulted when the regulator on the fuel tank froze at the water district building on East Lake Road. The insurance company has been notified and they have asked for information to be submitted in order to process the claim. Mr. Hayssen reported that Mr. Hagen purchased a small heater to be placed in the bathroom to prevent further damage. Mr. Saeli will check to see if the repair to the furnace has been completed.

It is still the belief of the board that the portion of the water line that runs south of Kennedy Road into the former depot still belongs to the town. Seneca County Water District No. 1 will be submitting a resolution for the board and town attorney to review which will turn the ownership of this line over to them. Mr. Hayssen reported that there are small leaks in our line just prior to the meter the county reads at the water plant. This water loss is not currently being metered or billed by our district. Mr. Hayssen indicated that once Seneca County takes over ownership of this portion of the line, they will be required to maintain it. He reported that they may be able to extend another water line off this main line, but any water sales from this extension will be to the benefit of our district. Mr. Hayssen also reported that the district will now be paid for the water used by the three houses south of Kennedy Road.

Seneca County has also agreed to replace the meter on Kennedy Road at their cost, but it was determined that this board wants input as to what type of meter is put in place.

Water District No. 3: The 30 day time frame for the permissive referendum will expire shortly with no comments being submitted to date. The board reviewed the contract for water pricing with the Village of Waterloo and the motion to sell water to the hamlets of Fayette and Romulus at the Town of Varick's cost. Mr. Saeli expressed his concern over the rate that is currently being paid by Seneca Lake Water District users. Mr. Hayssen explained that both the hamlet districts will be charged an O&M charge which Seneca Lake Water district users do not have to pay. The cost for O&M for Seneca Lake District comes from the profit of the sale of water, mostly from the out of district users.

Water District No. 4: Mr. Hayssen reported that the town will be contracting with Seneca Falls for water rates and is hoping he can decrease the water rate 50 cents. He will speak to Jeff Warrick about this. Fayette has also agreed not to put any increases on their cost to us, which is a contract that Mr. Sipos is working on.

Mr. Hayssen also reported that Community Bank and First Niagara Bank have declined to provide a bid for financing request of \$1,700,000 due to the size and structure of the request.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: The board reviewed the bill submitted by Seneca County Sewer District for processing the sewage at a rate of \$47.25 per unit. Mr. Hayssen thought the agreement was for \$45 per unit. He will follow up on this.

Al Lester submitted a letter regarding sewage charges that he is being billed for from the Seneca County Sewer District as well as the charges from Varick's district. Mr. Hayssen will look further into this billing issue.

Mr. Hayssen stated that in the Agreement for Sewage Treatment Collection, and Transmission Facilities between Seneca County Sewer District No. 1 and Seneca County Sewer District No. 2 and this district, it was determined that the sewage rate to process this districts sewage should be \$30 per unit. According to Angel Lawrence people who have their water turned off, which would exempt them from paying this amount according to the agreed billing policy in place now, would still have to pay the \$30 even if their water is turned off under this original agreement. Mr. Hayssen will update us on the billing amounts at the next meeting.

Highway: Mr. Peterson and Mr. Hayssen will follow up on the funding to reimburse the culvert project. It was reported that Mr. McCulloch will consider taking coal ash, but only by appointment. The board wants to discuss this further with Mr. McCulloch before any final decision is made on this.

Assessor: A motion by Kathy Russo, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the written Assessor' Report.

Clerk's Report: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve the Clerk's Report: Town Revenue to Suervisor-\$57.68, County Treasurer-\$25.32 and State Ag & Markets-\$9.00. Total Disbursements: \$92.00.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to accept the Supervisor's Report.

Mr. Hayssen reported that Philip Griswold would like to attend March's meeting to give a short 15 minute presentation on the Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM) Program which is a voluntary, incentive based , locally led and implemented program that assists farmers to efficiently and cost effectively address all natural resource concerns on the farm prioritized through a watershed approach.

Personnel: Mrs. Russo will follow up on the Youth Bureau Grant. She also reported that Michelle Andrews was still interested in continuing as director of the Summer Recreation program.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to The Town of Varick General Fund, Resolution No. 1.

A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 2, General, Vouchers A0009-9 to A0009-24 in the amount of \$22,642.82, Highway, Vouchers DAO09-4 to DAO09-14 in the amount of \$1,493.83, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS09-04 & SSS09-5 in the amount of \$9,477.50, Seneca Lake Water District, SWS09-07 in the amount of \$17,330.62.

Total Control System submitted another statement for the reinstallation of the meter at Kennedy Road which has never worked after it was supposedly repaired. Mrs. Karlsen will send a letter to Total Control to explain to them why their statement is not being paid.

New Business, Old Business & Correspondence: It was noted that the Code Enforcement Officer doesn't require any training as his work background and knowledge met the county requirements for this position.

The board received another statement from Bonadio for audit work which wasn't approved to be paid. Bonadio wants to be put on March's agenda to submit final audits for 2006 and 2007 and in an email sent to Mr. Hayssen, Bonadio recommended the board look for another auditing firm to do the 2008 audit, even though he feels it will be much easier to do as the accounting is being done correctly now.

Cayuga County Sheriff's Department wrote a letter thanking the board for their support regarding the seizure of untaxed cigarettes from the Lakeside Trading stores.

Mrs. Russo suggested passing a resolution concerning the increase in Veteran's exemption. Mrs. Karlsen reported that she had received a phone call from Ann Morgan on this exemption. Mrs. Morgan said that in order to pass this into law, the proper legal steps have to be followed and have to be done at least 45 days prior to taxable status date which is March 1. Mrs. Morgan will be attending a town board meeting during the summer to present this proposed exemption to the board and inform the board of the appropriate steps that need to be followed to enact such a law.

A discussion took place as to what percentage of the town is not taxable. This percentage will be looked into further.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Kathy Russo and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Karlsen, Varick Town Clerk