

Varick Town Board
December 1, 2015

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 Todd Horton, John Saeli, and Richard Peterson, Attorney for the Town, Steve Ricci, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen, Bookkeeper, Angela Testa, Highway Superintendent, Richard McCulloch, Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Colton. Attorney Wendy Marsh, and Ovid Gazette reporter, Aneta Glover. Also present were Tom Fox, Fred Riegel, John S. Stoltzfus, Tobias Hertzler, and Michele Hermann. Absent: Councilwoman, Kathy Russo.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Fred Riegel questioned if any action or discussion would take place regarding a questionable sub-division on Route 89. Mr. Hayssen believed that a report to the board will be in executive session by Attorney Wendy Marsh, but no action will be taken at this time as research on this matter is still ongoing.

Larry Colton provided information he gathered regarding the history of the depot property and it was clarified that Hillside does not own the property, but has an agreement with the IDA for use. The only previous depot property sold on this end was to the Sheriff's department and the prison. Mr. Colton reported that the Amish are in the process of forming a committee to put a package together to purchase the property. It was noted that the Army will be responsible for the property for many years through a "super fund" and the only areas released currently are the lands owned by the sheriff's department and the prison. Mr. Hayssen reported that the IDA did offer to the towns of Romulus and Varick to purchase the property for a \$1.

Highway: Mr. McCulloch reported that he has placed the order for a 2016 Ford F350 truck and will put a voucher through prior to the end of the year. He noted the approximate cost was \$34,000, fully equipped. It was noted by the bookkeeper that the invoice has to be dated prior to December 31, 2015 in order to be expensed from the 2015 budget, but does not need to be paid the December 31, 2015. This invoice will be encumbered in 2015, but paid in 2016.

He also reported that Roy Gates is assisting him in the bidding process for a new tractor. Due to the new federal program and the type of tractor the town needs to purchase, it will be necessary to go out to bid for this piece of equipment.

The town has been assisting the county putting shoulders down along the road.

Supervisor's Report: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to approve the Supervisor's report.

Code Enforcement Officer: No report.

Varick Sewer District No. 1: No report.

Varick Sewer District No. 2: Mr. Hayssen and Mr. Saeli followed up on the proposals submitted by Siewert last month and approved the repair and one time maintenance to be completed on the pumps.

Varick Water District No. 1: No report.

Seneca Lake Water District: Mr. Hayssen reported the road was repaired at the corner of Yale Farm Road and East Lake Road where the water break occurred.

Water District No. 3: No report.

Water District No. 4: Mrs. Karlsen presented to the board an email she received November 29th from Sondra Donofrio regarding her concerns she expressed in September pertaining to the water main installation. Mr. Hayssen reported that the contractor did review her concerns and fill dirt and seeding were completed. Mr. Hayssen also noted that the line was done all within the highway right-of-way.

Mr. Hayssen reported that the pre-closing for this project is to be held December 17th and several bills and a wish list of items have been prepared for submittal to Rural Development for final payment. It was noted that Water District No. 4 is currently financially sound.

Town Clerk's Report: A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's Report: Supervisor; \$82.50, NYS Ag & Markets, \$4, State Health Department: \$22.50, Total Revenue: \$109.

Personnel: No report.

Assessor: No report.

Zoning: No report.

Minutes: A motion by John Saeli, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the minutes of November 4, 2015.

Old Business, New Business and Correspondence:

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to hold an end of year meeting to approve Abstract No. 13 and to address any other business that comes before the board December 31, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Varick Town Hall.

Attorney Steve Ricci confirmed that it is prohibited that the Town continue to contract with Tom Fox's company for court security as the beginning of the year Mr. Fox will be a member of the board. Todd Horton will discuss this issue with Judge Ettman and report back to the board.

Mr. Hayssen is in support of the town of Varick purchasing the former depot property from the IDA as offered for \$1. He reported that Councilwoman Kathy Russo is also in favor of this.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to open discussion with the intent of pursuing the purchase of land located on the former depot property within the Town of Varick from the IDA for the sum of \$1.

Discussion: Mr. Saeli stated that he would support this as long as there is a time line established to redevelop this property through marketing, while recognizing expense and revenue and implementing a strong management plan for this process. He does not want this purchase to become a burden to the town residents.

Mr. Horton reported that the property for purchase is clean from contamination and the government would be liable for life through the “super fund” It would also be the responsibility of the IDA to complete any survey work if purchased.

Mr. Hayssen wanted it noted in the motion that the town is very interested in opening the county road that runs through this property and suggested the motion be amended.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to amend the motion to include the town’s interest in opening the County Road that runs through this property.

A motion by Robert Hayssen, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to open discussion with the intent of pursuing the purchase of land located on the former army depot within the Town of Varick from the IDA for the sum of \$1 and the town’s interest in opening the County Road that runs through this property.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 12 General, Vouchers A0015-211 to A0015-217 in the amount of \$2,201.33, Highway, Vouchers DA015-83 to DA015-093 in the amount of \$2,631.72, Varick Water District No., Voucher VW115-018 in the amount of \$17, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS15-050 to SWS15-054 in the amount of \$8,409.38, Varick Water District No. 3, Voucher VW315-021 in the amount of \$17, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW415-031 to VW415-32 in the amount of \$867.38, Varick Sewer District No 1, Voucher VS115-034 in the amount of \$11.19, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Vouchers SSS15-048 in the amount of \$3,930.26.

A motion by Todd Horton, seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to approve payment of the following bills for Water District No. 4 Capital Project:

John Sipos	\$ 1,000.00
Blair Supply Corporation: Invoice 1197933	\$17,932.24
1197933-2	\$ 554.00
1197933	\$11,028.00
1209275	\$54,821.52
Varick Water District No. 4, Inspections:	\$15,310.00
Donna Karlsen, Petty Cash	\$ 5.26

Also approved for reimbursement was bond interest in the approximate amount of \$50,000. Municipal Solutions will provide and submit the exact amount once calculated.

The board also submitted to Rural Development the “wish list items” for approval to purchase with remaining grant funds. These items included an Orion Starter Package to include hand held reader with internal receiver, charger and software package with 2 days of training at a cost of \$8,995 and a corresponding billing program from Harris in the amount of \$11,120.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to enter into executive session at 8:00 p.m. to discuss potential legal litigation and invited Wendy Marsh and Tom Fox to attend.

A motion by Robert Hayssen and seconded by Todd Horton and so carried unanimously to come out of executive session at 9:05 p.m.

A motion by Todd Horton and seconded by John Saeli and so carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Donna Karlsen, Varick Town Clerk