

December 26, 2019

The end of year meeting was called to order by Supervisor Robert Hayssen at 10:00 a.m. Present at this meeting were Councilman Tom Fox, Richard Peterson and Eric Riegel, Town Clerk, Donna Karlsen and Highway Superintendent, Ben Freier. Also present was Richard McCulloch, Susan Ottenweller and Cindy Drexler.

Petitioners to Address the Board: Susan Ottenweller addressed the board regarding the vacant town board position and requested the board consider appointing a Democrat to fill the vacancy. She reported that the majority of the town residents are registered Republicans and would like to see a diverse town board with the appointment of a Democrat to fill the vacancy. The board had received two letters of interest; one from Nanci Rose-Ritter and a second from Richard McCulloch who both attended the regular board meeting held December 3rd. In an email dated December 13th, Nanci Rose-Ritter respectfully withdrew her bid to fill the vacant seat citing reasons for her withdrawal to include taking on new projects in connection with the Seneca County Democratic Party which would limit her availability for other political involvements. Mr. Fox introduced Richard McCulloch, who was in attendance at this meeting, and reported that he has been attending town board meetings for the past two to three years and had previously served as the town's code enforcement officer. Through his interest and attendance at meetings, he is very knowledgeable about the operation of the town and the various water and sewer districts. Mr. Hayssen indicated that this vacancy will be filled by appointment by the town board to expire December 31, 2020. This position will be voted upon at the November 2020 elections.

Resolutions to Amend the 2019 budgets: The board reviewed resolutions to amend revenue and expense lines to balance the 2019 adopted budget.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Amendment to the Town of Varick General Fund, Resolution No. 6

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Amendment to the Town of Varick Highway, Resolution No.7.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Amendment to the Varick Water District No. 1, Resolution No. 8,

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve the Amendment to Seneca Lake Water District, Resolution No. 9

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to Varick Water District No. 4, Resolution No. 10.

A motion by Tom Fox, seconded by Richard Peterson and so carried unanimously to approve Amendment to Varick Sewer District No. 1, Resolution No. 11

Abstracts: A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to approve Abstract No. 13, General Fund, Vouchers A0019-217 to A0019-229 in the amount of \$2,767.47, Highway, Vouchers DA019-80 to DAO19-86 in the amount of \$1,698.01, Seneca Lake Water District, Vouchers SWS19-098 to SWS19100 in the amount of \$1,839.34, Varick Water District No. 3, Vouchers VW319-022 in the amount of \$223.00, Varick Water District No. 4, Vouchers VW419-050to VW419-051 in the amount of \$1,191.54, Varick Sewer District No. 1, Vouchers VS119-049 in the amount of \$2,580, Varick Sewer District No. 2, Voucher SSS19-035 in the amount of \$9,540, Building Capital Fund, HO19-013 to HO19-015 in the amount of \$240.53.

Highway: Mr. Freier reported that the highway department has been going through inventory and have found items that are no longer serviceable and/or equipment that no longer fits equipment used by the department and requested permission from the board to dispose of these items. He reported that he will maintain an inventory of any items disposed of or sold. It was reported that many items were surplus obtained when the depot closed. The board gave him permission to dispose of these items, while maintaining an inventory of said items.

Mr. Freier reported that he met with a NYMIR representative, who reviewed the town's inventory and highway records. It was suggested that all "Children At Play" signage along the town's roads be taken down along with some other suggestions made for improved record keeping.

Old Business, New Business, Correspondence:

Supervisor Hayssen submitted a letter of resignation effective December 29, 2019 as Supervisor of the town. He reported to the board that by doing so he will be able to activate his state retirement. He will begin his newly elected term of office beginning January 1, 2020.

The board received a letter from the Varick Zoning Board pertaining to the septic systems along Cayuga Lake. They expressed their concern that many of these systems are old and dysfunctional and has the potential to create an added source of pollution in Cayuga Lake. They reported that at their October 22 and November 26, 2019 meetings the ZBA discussed ways to identify and improve inadequate systems. They indicated that the ideal solution would be the installation of public sewers which they are recommending the board look into. The other consideration would be to require each property owner along Route 89 to provide a current inspection report of the property septic system. This report would be similar to that which is required upon sale or transfer of property. There would need to be enforcement provision for: (1) owners who do not comply and (2) systems that need to be updated. The ZBA would be investigating sources of funds such as CDBG to assist low income owners with the cost of inspection and upgrades.

Mr. Hayssen reported that Hunt Engineering dropped off a single copy of their Draft Preliminary Engineering Report December 19th for the Town of Varick Municipal Sanitary Sewer System, Cayuga Lake Corridor. This study was done in conjunction with the Town of Fayette and is dependent on their participation as the sewer treatment is proposed to be pumped to Seneca Falls treatment plant in this Map, Plan and Report. Mr. Hayssen reported that the town of Fayette is not interested in pursuing this project at this time as they are working on a proposed system along Seneca Lake currently and is considering pumping waste to Geneva. Mr. Fox responded by

opposing singling out taxpayers to add another additional burden to them by having to replace, in many cases, several thousand dollars in cost for septic systems. It was noted that poor septic systems exist all around the lake and the removal of hedgerows by farmers has limited the filter of runoff to the lake. Mr. Fox noted that that this needs to be a county wide effort. Susan Ottenweller, who is a member of the ZBA, suggested a joint meeting between the boards be held once further information is developed.

A motion by Richard Peterson, seconded by Tom Fox and so carried unanimously to appoint Richard McCulloch to the vacant Town Councilman position to expire December 31, 2020.

Discussion: Mr. Fox reported that Mr. McCulloch has been attending town board meetings for the past two to three years and has educated himself regarding town business and feels that he is most qualified to fill this position at this time. The board spoke highly of Michelle Herman's attendance and input at board meetings and encouraged those interested in the town's business to attend the open meetings. Cindy Drexler indicated that she will be attending the board meetings as Michelle Hermann had done in the past to become better versed in town business.

Discussion was held regarding different options to provide information to the town's people and it was felt the "One Call" system is very useful and is updated as town residents provide their information. It was also reported that the town has a web page which is maintained on a volunteer basis, public notices which are published in the town's designated legal newspaper and mailings which are sent directly to residents.

A motion by Eric Riegel, seconded by Richard Peterson, and so carried unanimously to adjourn the special meeting of the Varick Town Board at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Donna Karlsen
Varick Town Clerk