

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

July 11, 2013

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. 217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Johnston	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Virginia Martin of the Columbia County Board of Elections reported that the polling places at the Village Hall in Philmont and the Claverack Town Hall will be combined and relocated to the Albert E. Tripp Nutrition Center, Main Street, Philmont. This change will be in effect this coming fall.

Motion by Councilman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of previous meeting of June 13 and workshop meeting of June 25, 2013 after corrections. Carried. Churchtown Fire Company is seeking to purchase both a tanker truck and a pumper truck. Letter to Cornell is to support the Local Technical Assistance Program, providing technical assistance and training to local highway officials through Cooperative Extension.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont-Will be given later in meeting by Councilman Weigelt.

Dog Control Officer's Report received and on file in Town Office for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee – Report from Ian Nitschke read by Supervisor – Met on Friday, July 5th with five members in attendance. Three items of discussion were on agenda – Update on Shaw Bridge, update on Millbrook Road Bridge and update on former Claverack School.

Economic Development Advisory Committee – Read by Supervisor – Did not meet formally on June 19th. Has met informally throughout the month to keep each member informed as to what has been going on and what will be coming up.

Members have been present at Planning Board and ZBA meetings in support of business initiatives within the Town. Had ongoing discussions with new owner of property at corner of Rtes. 9-H and 23B and continue to be in touch with Tom Finck in regards to his new project by intersection of Rtes. 9-H and #66.

Still in discussion with developer about a potential project – may be at August or September Planning Board meeting. Committee also preparing plan concerning former Claverack School.

Committee will be meeting with representatives of NYSDOT on July 10 regarding pedestrian safety issues at intersection of Rtes. 23B and 9-H.

Committee has started to compile a list of all businesses within Town boundaries.

Will be no scheduled meeting on July 17th due to summer vacation conflicts. Next meeting will be August 21, 2013.

Agricultural Advisory Committee – Have had no monthly meeting. On County level, Columbia County Agricultural Farmland Protection Plan presented and public hearing held – probably will be adopted.

Claverack 225 Anniversary Committee – No report. Mardi Gras Parade tomorrow evening in Philmont, sponsored by Philmont Fire Company.

No further reports.

Correspondence

Ellen Jouret-Epstein – Watershed Roundtable

Enid Futterman – South corner of Rtes. 9-H and 23B

Vincent McKiernan – Re: Noise level request

Steve Winkley – New York Rural Association

Notice of Public Hearing – Town of Ghent – Local Law #1

National Grid – Tree Planting Program participation

Cornell University – Cornell Local Roads Program

Ellen Jouret-Epstein – Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council workshops

Laberge Group – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Manfred Real Estate Learning Center, Inc. – Certificates to Frederick Zitto for Assessor courses completed and passed

Churchill/Fish: Re: County Rte. 27 speed limit – want request to County for 40mph speed limit

Town of Ghent – Public Hearing on Mass Gathering Law

Vincent McKiernan handed out information and spoke on speed and excessive noise, with suggestions to help alleviate each one. Town does not have noise ordinance and in the past have been told that it is very difficult to enforce. Speed limit reduction requested for County Rte. 27 and enforcement of same. Peter Bevacqua suggested perhaps noise limit after 10:00 p.m.

Councilman Weigelt said that the presence of law enforcement officer does help in keeping speed down.

TOWN BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Councilman Weigelt – Gave Highway Report in absence of Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont. Department has been working with Village of Philmont on County Rte. #11, ditching and changing culvert pipes. Ditching on Dunbar, Christman and Justice Roads - repaired broken edges on Courts Lane with blacktop, preparing for oil and stone surfacing. Fixing potholes with cold mix in all zones.

Grading dirt roads in all zones and mowing roadsides in all zones.

Completed, with Colarusso, blacktopping Shasta and Damita Drive and Pine Hill.

Replaced some of the 6" x 6" rotted boards that go to the swings in the park and installed mulch beneath all rides in the park.

Councilman Preusser – Met with Tim Carr on solar power energy for Town buildings and what would be saved. Was given amount of usage for each building over a one year period.

Millbrook Road Bridge– NYSDEC has approved project. SEQR will be ready for next month's meeting.

90+ youths attending Summer Program at Town Park. Speaking with Director on possible archery program. Met with Cooperative Extension on a program for next year and with Philmont Rod and Gun Club to introduce archery.

Grants – Hazard Mitigation – from Hudson Estuary Program – Spoke with Highway Superintendent LaMont on a couple of culvert projects that need to be done – Many funds going to southern tier of New York. Need someone who is able to grant writing for this.

Cornell Program for Local Technician Assistant Program – Road infrastructure. Available to Highway Departments at no cost. Program may be discontinued and needs letters of support to continue. This program includes Town of County Departments.

Conservation Funding Program meeting this coming Monday to get feel of grant writing.

Councilwoman Cashen – Working as liaison with Planning Board and discussions on Big Up Festival, also including Special Counsel and Building Inspector. Has copy of Town of Ghent's Public Hearing on Mass Gatherings and hopes to attend the Public Hearing

Worked with Communication Committee to make updates to website on 225th Claverack Anniversary calendar of events and updating Planning Board and ZBA to remove old zoning code.

Supervisor Andrew – Bridge on Rte. 23B is supposed to be reopened no later than August 30th. Only emergency vehicles are allowed to cross bridge at Webb Road and tickets are being issued to others who use it.

Mardi Gras parade tomorrow evening in Philmont, stepping off at 6:00 p.m.

At the County level, Supervisors voted to sell County Home Health Aide Program. They also voted to hold off on non-union raises and upgrades until further financial reporting. All raises will be retroactive to January 1st if and when approved.

County held a public hearing on the Farmland Protection Plan, now completed. Will probably be passed next month.

Attended Amateur Radio Field Day, a 24 hour yearly event at the Claverack Town Park.

Executed bond for highway truck for balance of \$125,000.00. Payments will begin in February 2014 for three years. Also waiting for information on Highway Garage for refinancing of Bond.

Met with Economic Development Committee and NYSDOT about intersection of Rtes. 9-H/#23 and #23B to go over concepts for traffic channelization, pedestrian safety and support of local businesses. Asked Supervisor Porreca of Greenport about the speed monitor in use on Healy Boulevard to see if it was effective in slowing traffic. Will consider using it on Rtes. #23 and #27, areas where there have been complaints. They have agreed for us to use it with an inter-municipal agreement signed.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept Financial Reports for Final January – May 2013 and draft January to June 2013. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for a request to the County to lower speed limit on County Rte. #27, from State Rte. 9-H to Miller Road, a Town Road. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen authorizing Supervisor Andrews to sign inter-municipal agreement with Greenport for use of speed monitor. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve road dedication of Catskill View Farm Road, approved by Highway Superintendent LaMont. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve issuance of Tax Exempt Notes to Churchtown for fire trucks. This will allow them to get a good municipal bond rate. Carried with Councilman Preusser abstaining. This is not a debt to the Town or State of New York.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen authorizing letter of support to be written for Cornell Local Technician Assistant Program. Carried.

It was noted that General Code will have codification of Town Laws within next two months.

It was also noted that Service Award audit has been completed by Churchill and Torchia for \$8,400.00. This is part of the retirement program for Churchtown Fire Company.

Meeting opened to public:

Linda Sullivan – Regarding Lobosco property on Rte. #23B. House and grounds in disrepair – shed collapsing – animals in shed – pool fence collapsing – grass unmowed and high and an eyesore in the area. Not likely to sell. Many nearby residents also present voicing agreement with concerns.

Nathan Chess – re: Millbrook Bridge – Does Planning Board have input on this?

Has officially made contact with insurance brokers.

General A bills, totaling \$ 10,430.11, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$ 2,423.59, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$122,983.54, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$ 81,123.97, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow bills, totaling \$5,954.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Town Clerk: _____

