

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

June 13, 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
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Johnston	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous meeting of May 09, 2013 and workshop meeting of June 04, 2013. Carried

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Ditching Schoolhouse and Millbrook Roads. Finished True-n-Leveling on Shasta Drive and Pine Hill Drive to prepare for paving.

Center of Girls' Softball Field has been dug out and new clay installed.

Have been mowing roadsides in all zones.

Have been assisting Village of Philmont at their new Highway Garage to prepare for paving.

Brought up a question regarding water hookups on Willmon Road, which are outside water district and whether it can be considered. Will need to speak with Attorney Fitzsimmons in regards to this.

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

Building Inspectors' Report received and on file in Town Office for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Historic Advisory Committee – Ian Nitschke – Met June 7th. Three items on agenda: Shaw Bridge, Millbrook Road Bridge and Claverack School property.

Progress in last month with Shaw Bridge project included a draft final report from Ryan Biggs, a complete set of Columbia County Shaw Bridge files which were made available by Dean Knox, Director of Columbia County Engineering Department, and documents regarding September 06, 1980 celebration of the listing of Shaw Bridge on National Register, loaned by Louis LaMont. Committee members will continue to do work on this project.

Brief discussion on Millbrook Road Bridge held. Proposal to assess cost of repairing bridge for pedestrians and emergency traffic by David Biggs' was detailed to be \$28,900.00 plus expenses of \$8,500.00. This proposal was rejected by Town Board.

Has been reported that offer for former Claverack School property has been withdrawn. Attorney Henry Neale volunteered to do more legal research on the school with New York State Education Department.

Agricultural Advisory Committee - No Report

Economic Development Committee – No Report.

Claverack 225 Anniversary Committee – Calendar of Events for the year is now available and bumper stickers also available. There will be some available at no charge at the Town Office for those interested.

Correspondence

Letter from NYS Dept. of Taxation & Finance – Real Property Tax Service – Equalization Rate 100% - Commended Assessors' on this.

Confirmation from Young/Sommer LLC for Special Counsel Services for proposed Ginsberg project.

Town Board Reports

Councilman Preusser – Youth and Park – Girls' Softball field completed to proper standards. Also received many calls from those participating in Taconic Hills Little League saying thank you.

Met with Director of Summer Youth Program, Brett Holmes and Councilwoman Cashen to review and choose five counselors, which was difficult because all applicants were well qualified. Program runs from Monday, July 8th – Friday, August 16th. Signups have been scheduled for June 12th and June 17th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Envirothon Competition – Sponsored by Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District and nine other Soil & Water Conservation Districts in Hudson Valley Region to provide high schools with a regional Envirothon competition to determine county champions that will advance to the NYS Envirothon on May 30 – 31 at Morrisville State College. The Hudson High School Team came in 1st place.

All Columbia County teams placed in top half of the field. The winning team on the State level will compete against other teams from the United States and Canada at the North American Envirothon at Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana.

Met with Economic Development Committee several times in regards to ongoing and upcoming projects
In the Town.

Met with Town officials, Columbia County Sheriff's Department and Columbia County Fire Coordinator
at Big-Up Festival site.

Met with Highway Superintendent, Louis LaMont and Councilman Weigelt on Personal Policy Handbook,
The Millbrook Road Bridge project and Town culvert project in the Hollowville watershed, which is completely in the Town of Claverack- Project being done by Hudson River Estuary, New York State DEC
and Cornell. Also commended Highway Superintendent LaMont and the Highway Department for the
last two years of replacing culverts in the Town.

Worked with Laurie Sager of Soil and Water on a project at Churchtown Fire Company where they are
Implementing a program of using water from off the roof to catch basins to wash trucks. Will be getting
more information on this project.

Reported by Steve Winkley of New York Rural Association that August 01, 2013 funds are being
reinstated to enable him to continue our water resource mapping. Requested that Board allow him to
be liaison for this program.

Columbia Land Conservancy has reached their goal of 23,000 acres in conservation easements.
Have
Established over 5,700 acres for public use with ten conservation areas, along with providing
numerous
outdoor and educational activities for all ages. He will draft letter of acknowledgment for their
efforts
and success.

Councilman Weigelt – Met with Highway Superintendent LaMont and Councilman Preusser to go
over
Handbook. Should be able to look over the finished product at next workshop. Has been worked
on for
a long time and needs to be finished.

Councilman Cashen – Has been working on Summer Youth Program with Councilman Preusser and
Youth Director Brett Holmes. Five new counselors were chosen. Worked with office staff to update
materials to publicize the program and sent press release to Register Star for sign-ups. Posted
information and left marketing materials at local libraries and businesses,

Supervisor Andrews – Passed motion to continue working on Pine Haven Project. Note of gratitude to those who came to rally at 401 State Street in favor of the new nursing home.

County will be looking more into the Columbia County Health Aide Program – have been losing money.

County is doing okay budget-wise but problem with cash flow – will be looking at staffing and other solutions to problem.

Ken Flood has been working to set up bus route once a week from Philmont to shopping areas.

Philmont Community Day is July 9th and includes Elvis impersonator and fireworks.

Met with Mellenville Fire Company regarding mapping and their coverage lines.

Ginsberg's new project is also within the Town of Ghent. Working on this – Ginsberg representatives, Town Supervisor and Building Inspector met to discuss this.

Supervisor attended Flag Day Parade, Flame Concert at Taconic Hills School and Memorial Day Parade in Philmont.

No further report.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept final January – April 2013 and draft January – May 2013 financial reports. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to close public hearing on proposed law to make changes to zoning Hamlet Business Area. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to table local law to change zoning in Hamlet Business area. Carried

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve counselors for this years Summer Youth Program, as requested by Program Director, Brett Holmes. Carried

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve pay scale for Youth Program at \$1,100.00 for new counselors, \$1,150.00 for returning counselors, \$1,200.00 for senior Counselor, as per budget, as well as an increase for Director, Brett Holmes, based on his 4 years' Experience, with no prior increase, to \$3,600.00 for the season. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve Attorney Jeffrey Baker

as special counsel for the Ginsberg project. Town Attorney, Robert Fitzsimmons, recused himself from working on this project. This motion also included approval to sign any necessary agreements. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser, to again support the Town of Ulysses Home Rule. Carried. Councilman Preusser remarked that this resolution should be consistent with the past resolution as prepared by the Town of Ulysses.

Meeting opened to public:

Chris Post – Has been 6 months since approval of new zoning regulations – direct mailing to residents missing – suggestion of using postcards for suggestions or updates. There is an annual review now instead of the previous 5 year.

Michael Brandon – Reported as Town Justice that effective July 26, 2013, there will be a surcharge on parking tickets. State is expanding cap on surcharges with new formula. No longer will be a just fine ticket.

General A bills, totaling, \$23,088.30, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,829.45, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$28,220.44, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,321.00, were audited and order paid from the account.

Escrow account bills, totaling \$229.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Town Clerk: _____