

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**May 09, 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, immediately following the public hearings on Local Law #3 of 2013 and the continuation of the public hearing on Local Law #2 of 2013. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of April 11, 2013 and workshop meeting of April 30, 2013. Carried.

**Presentation from Cornell Cooperative Extension on Hudson Watershed Project – Theresa Mayhew –** Gave presentation on Hudson River Watershed Project – gave information to Board, which included, “Recommendations for Stream & Flood Management in Dutchess County”. Information available on website [www.hudsonestuarywatershedresilencyproject.com](http://www.hudsonestuarywatershedresilencyproject.com). Spoke on educational services throughout New York State. Spoke with Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont. Village of Philmont, Agricultural Advisory Committee and Planning Board should be included in information sent out at later dates. Times and dates of meeting depend on work schedules and other meetings. Early evening times are best.

**Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont –** Completed sweeping roads for first time this year. Have been ditching Schoolhouse Road and getting ready to replace culvert pipes in preparation for chip-sealing.

Installed 280 feet of under-drain on Town of Claverack section of Tipple Road – paved and worked with Town of Ghent to pave their section.

Grading gravel roads in all zones.

Park facilities have been opened for the season. Water has been turned on and bathroom facilities opened. Girls' softball field will be ready shortly.

No further report.

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Historic Advisory Committee** – No written report, but report given by Ian Nitschke. Gave Town Board letter from Ryan Biggs of fee to see what needs to be done for repair of Millbrook Bridge - \$28,900. Wants Town to postpone doing anything with bridge until later date.

Made mention of Holmquests new state of the art greenhouse.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee** –No written report – Councilwoman Cashen reported no meeting since last Town Board meeting.

**Economic Development Committee** – No report.

**Claverack 225 Anniversary Committee** – Report given by member Jack Race. Attended meeting to discuss plans with Town Historian, Jeanne LaPorta. Parade through Philmont on October 06, 2011 being planned. Bumper stickers soon will be available. Have secured banner, which will be taken through the Town and placed at strategic places for a week or so at a time. Mr. Nitschke working with postmistress on stamp for anniversary.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

See attached

### **TOWN BOARD REPORTS**

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Attended ZBA meetings. Discussed zoning change request for former Claverack School property on Rte. #23B. Participated in discussion with Planning Board members and the attorney on the Big Up Festival.

Discussed Summer Youth Program with Town Office staff and provided information from last year for sign-up and outreach on summer program.

Followed up with fire companies of Town to obtain contact information for mapping information for fire districts.

Reviewed Town website for updates.

Attended A.B. Shaw Fire Company Annual Banquet.

**Councilman Weigelt** – In regards to Millbrook Bridge – Will be discussed later in meeting.

**Councilman Preusser** – Youth – Will continue with flyer, which was designed for last year's program. Work being done on Girls' Softball Field to bring it up to regulation. Clay/Sand mixture replacing grass. Will order more sand for baseball field drainage project, which will be a fall project. Still working with Columbia County Soil and Water on final amount of grant to be received for this project.

Regarding stream grants, met with Highway Superintendent LaMont and NYSDEC representatives to review and update permit. New idea to try on stream embankment. Also, going to reapply for grant on one of the projects submitted last year. Was informed by Laurie Sager from Columbia County Soil and Water of grant from Hudson River Estuary.

Working on new fire company boundaries. Letters sent to all six fire companies in Town requesting maps. Assessors' maps and 911 maps are inconsistent and do not agree. Looking into whether Town accepted 911 maps from 1991.

Town is staying with Selective Insurance for another year.. Received correspondence from NYMIR, the last carrier Town had and they are interested in giving us information on coverage again.

Worked with Councilwoman Cashen on Oversight Committee on the Big Up Music Festival. Will be scheduling meeting of NYSDEC representatives and Building Department at site of festival.

Worked with Supervisor on refinancing Town Garage note – has to be done by September – supposed to save approximately \$80,000.00, minus bonding fees over the life of the bond. Was recommended to work with Christine Chute from Rapport, Meyers, Whitbeck & Rodenhausen law firm.

Working with Highway Superintendent, Councilman Weigelt and representative from Morris Associates on Millbrook Bridge project – where we are at, next step to move forward and also discussion on borrowing \$250,000.00 over 15 years to complete project. Borings have already been done.

**Supervisor Andrews** – Annual AUD has been filed with the NYS Comptroller's Office. Sales Tax check was a little lower than anticipated. Mortgage Tax a little more than last year.

Columbia County Board of Supervisors will again be choosing students from the area to receive scholarships to Columbia/Greene Community College.

May 4<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> is National Police Week.

Flowers will be planted in Park on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Letters sent to all fire companies for their maps, which will be overlaid to see where there are disputes as to coverage.

Counsel for Big Up – Attorney for Town, Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr. has recused himself. Attorney Tuczynski also recused himself due to conflict of interest in firm. Jeffrey Baker, Esq. from Young & Sommer has been selected, if approved by Board..

Councilman Johnston reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. Parade steps off from Upper Main Street by the former American Legion Building at 9:00 a.m.

The following motions were made:

One bid received for Transportation for the Summer Youth Program and Winter Ski Program - Pulcher Transportation at \$2.95 per mile and \$18.00 wait time. Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept bid. Carried, with Councilman Johnston abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve Jeffrey Baker, Esq, of Young & Sommer as counsel for the Big Up project. Carried, pending final approval by Planning Board. Question by Mike Brandon – What amount received for escrow? \$5,000.00.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to approve Final January – December 2012 Financial Report and draft January – April 2013 Financial Report and Final March 2013 Financial Report. Carried.

MOTION BY Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve Local Law #2, designating exemption from Civil Service classification for Court Clerks. Carried, with Councilman Weigelt abstaining.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve a deposit of \$50.00 for signs required by Planning Board for Public Hearings, reflecting the cost of the sign, to be returned to applicant, if sign returned within 30 days of the closing of the public hearing. If it is not returned in that time frame, funds are forfeited. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize payment of the Penflex participation fee bill for Churchtown Fire Company LOSAP program, funds to come out of LOSAP. Carried with Councilman Preusser abstaining.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser to change workshop meeting to June 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at Town Office Building, 91 Church Street. Carried.

Councilman Weigelt spoke on Millbrook Bridge project- Borings done. Town has to make commitment now for time frame to be able to get work completed. Would like to see transportation ability on this road. Discussion followed. Total project \$316,000.00, with payback of approximately \$22,000.00 for 10 years. \$10,000.00 or \$12,000.00 would come out of Highway funds. Highway Department can do a lot of the work on this project, saving at least \$45,000.00 - \$50,000.00. Updated information given by Councilmen Weigelt and Preusser. Councilman Johnston said the past cannot stand in the way of the future or the safety of the residents of the Town. After discussion, motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to proceed to the next step, which includes lawyers fee, bid specs., etc., with a cost of up to \$17,000.00. Carried with Supervisor Andrews opposing.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go forward with refinancing of bond for Highway Garage, making a considerable savings over the life of the new bond. Only allowed to do this year and between now and September. Carried.

Public Hearing for changing Claverack School property to Business and making wholesale business with showroom part of the Hamlet Business Zone to remain open. Offer that was made has been rescinded,

but Town Board has not received input from Planning Board or County Planning and has actually not heard from the school regarding sale or rescinding of proposal.

Meeting opened to public:

Noted that Town of Ulysses was successful in its' Home Rule and it stood in court.

No further comments.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$21,457.39, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$4,013.89, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bill, totaling \$35,238.27, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$3,648.97, 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 Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Weigelt: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Johnston: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Preusser: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Cashen: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_