

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

December 12, 2013

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. 217, Mellenville, New York, at 7:10 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 Of 2013.

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 Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of November 14, 2013, Public Hearing continuation for Removal of Planning Board member of November 25, 2013, Workshop Minutes of November 26, 2013 and Special Meeting of December 04, 2013. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department did a good job during 8 snow and ice storms and are working on equipment in the shop.

Dog Contol Officer’s Report for November 2013 received and on file in Town Office for review.

Building Inspectors’ Report for November 2013 received and on file in Town Office for review. It was noted that the Clear Channel Agreement was made one year ago. There were 14 billboards in the Town at the time and were to be taken down. Ten have been taken down and the four that are left are on State Rte. #66.

Committee Reports

Historic Advisory Committee – No meeting in month of November.

Agricultural Advisory Committee – No meeting this month.

Economic Development Committee – No report received.

Claverack 225th Anniversary Committee – No report received. On December 05, 2013 presentation made at Claverack Post Office of a \$.46 postage stamp, a hand canceling stamp which illustrated the

face of the saint and proclaims the day in honor of the original Dutch settlers on the Town's 225th anniversary and an envelope printed with a reproduction of a painting called the "Feast of St. Nicholas". Supervisor Andrews read the original proclamation from March 2013. Mr. Arnold Van Deusen read a portion of the "History of Columbia County, New York written in 1878. There was a gathering in the Park to sing Christmas Carols and then proceeded to the home of Peggy Lampman and Ian Nitschke for A READING OF "Twas the Night Before Christmas".

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Department of State – Information received that \$25,000.00 grant for the study on consolidating water shared services study was received (Columbia County Functional Consolidation of Water District Services, planning and implementation).

Hudson Valley Utilities Coalition – Power lines.

Bolt Action Design – Resignation of webmaster for Town website.

Brian Goodrich – Would like to continue on Planning Board and be considered for chairman.

Columbia County Planning Board – Re: Local Law #3 of 2013 – No impact.

NYSDEC – Accepting applications for Urban Forestry Projects.

Town of Milan – Re: Transmission line upgrade project proposed by NY Public Service Commission.

NYS Department of Transportation – Re: Small Urban Area Boundaries.

Columbia County Real Property Tax Service – Suzette Booy- Expired term of Board of Assessment Review (BAR) member.

Farmers and Families for Claverack – re: Power lines upgrade.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – Reviewed feedback received from public on draft Local Law #3 of 2013 – Concerts, Exhibitions and Festivals and worked with Town Attorney and Supervisor Andrews to make minor changes to the law.

Reviewed suggested changes to zoning code from Planning Board and Building Inspector.

Attended December 11, 2013 meeting – Ginsberg's project discussed. This is a major project and includes the Towns of Claverack and Ghent. Both Planning Boards will be meeting together in this dual process.

Responded to several constituents concerns about proposed power line expansion through the Town and drafted resolution for consideration by Town Board.

Drafted a Request for Quotes for a new webmaster for Town's website and sent out request to several vendors as well as posting on the Town website.

Attended 225th Claverack Sinterklaas celebration on December 05, 2013 in the Hamlet.

Councilman Weigelt – No Highway report. If anyone is interested in being a part of any Boards or Committees please contact Town Office.

Councilman Preusser – Kudos to Maple Hill Varsity Girls' Basketball Program - Have had 113 consecutive wins since 2006.

PARK – Met with Highway Superintendent LaMont in regards to \$6,000.00 grant from Soil & Water and need to purchase materials and submitted prior to end of year.

Planning on Brett Holmes for Director of Summer Youth Program, but should have something in place in case he doesn't come on board.

Stream Grants – Spoke with NYSDEC representative. Highway Superintendent LaMont and I will meet with to update application and propose projects to be done in 2014.

Met with Laura Sager of Soil & Water and Highway Superintendent LaMont about Town grant for two (2) box culverts, which have been prioritized to Tishouser Road and Decker Road. Had to increase our distribution to 25%, mostly in labor. Each project was estimated \$60,000.00 - \$65,000.00. Tishouser Road project is concern because of condition and traffic flow. Should know results in 2014 as far as award amount. May not be until 2015.

Solar Project – Updated and met with Monolith and Loftus. Came up with other ideas and suggestions, including increase transformer capacity at Highway Garage from 50K to 75K in order to handle a larger solar system within watts allowed. Has placed calls to National Grid representative, but waiting for return call.

Since starting project, other players brought to attention. Recommends that Town speak with a representative on agreement. Spoke with Ray at Morris Associates and I would be about \$800.00 to draw this up.

Met with Patrick Manning, representative from Veridian Energy and a representative from Ambient. Recommend would be to go to Veridian and lock into a six (6) month rate. Would save \$100.00 - \$125.00 per month.

Met with Morris Associates Representative, Highway Superintendent LaMont in regards to Millbrook Bridge. Representative will put together a report of where the Town is at now and a monthly chart on when things should be done and go to bid.

PENFLEX papers have to be signed.

Supervisor Andrews – On County level 2014 budget increased 2%. Continue working on the Columbia County Airport project issues. Passed resolution regarding the process of expanding the existing 115-KV power lines to 345-KV power lines and accessing additional land by eminent domain. Board of Supervisors urges Gov. Cuomo and the Hon Kathleen H. Burgess to ensure that this project receives the utmost scrutiny and careful consideration, including an independent and thorough analysis of reasonable alternatives and a close look at alternatives to eminent domain.

Met with incoming supervisor, Clifford Weigelt.

Paperwork completed on Bond refinance, Thank you to Chris Shale for her assistance and guidance.

Philmont Village Board has okayed agreement between the Town of Claverack and on Philmont Village Police for coverage in the Town Court. Will do some shadowing this month and go on duty in January 2014.

Attended meeting in Livingston on the proposed power lines expansion.

Thanked everyone for honor of serving the last four years.

Discussion on proposed high power lines. One of the proposals has upgrades going through Claverack, through properties on Webb Road. Supervisor Andrews read resolution opposing the expansion and said it mirrored the Livingston resolution. Comments followed:

Ian Solomon, a Webb Road resident has lived there for ten years, near where lines will go through. Doesn't want people to lose homes or others to lose value of homes. Doesn't want this imposed on residents and have no say about the project. Announced formation of Farmers and Families for Claverack, a version of Livingston's Farmers and Families for Livingston. Group has just received "interested party status". Now they can apply for intervenor funds from the Public Service Commission's website. Intervenor funds were put in place by the four vying companies. Interested parties can apply for funds to help fund their own analysis of the effects on their communities of the proposed line upgrades. Doesn't want tower out of his backyard and into someone else's'. Just wants people to be able to keep their homes and property values not affected.

Pam Kline, leader of the Farmers of Families of Livingston, asked that people work together on this as a community and leave bipartisan politics out of it. Important for Dutchess and Columbia Counties to resist the expansion and time for action is now and residents have to unite. Board cannot remain neutral. Claverack needs to work together with Columbia and Dutchess Counties.

John Keeler, 87 year old resident of Webb Road, said above-ground lines were outdated technology sixty (60) years ago.

Another resident, Bob Tomaso stated there needs to be alternative methods found. Letter from Sandra and Stuart Gill read.

Other residents unable to attend tonight's Board Meeting sent letters, read by members of the audience. All were from Claverack residents and all opposed the expansion. Ian Nitschke stated he was taking a very active role in Farmers and Families for Claverack since he worked for the Public Service Commission before retiring. Also stated that deciding how to proceed with the power lines expansion is biggest task Public Service Commission has ever faced.

Mr. Keeler said lines can be put underground and have to think about one another. Do need power, but needs to be done right.

Ian Nitschke would like to be more involved in this movement. Has knowledge in this area. All transmission lines should be underground – only New York City benefits from this.

Peggy Delamater has home on Webb Road. Tower on their land. Read letter from husband's parents, John and Barbara Delamater.

Can apply for status (1/2) and (1/2) for citizens groups. February 21, 2014 is deadline for scoping (letters) and telling Public Service Commission where interested parties stand.

Following this discussion, the SEQR regarding Local Law #3 on Concerts, Exhibitions and Festivals was read by Supervisor. Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for approval. Carried.

Next was discussion on removal of member of Planning Board. Councilman Preusser stated there are no set guidelines. Not fair to Town Board to have to bring charges against Nathan Chess and then decide if charges were valid.. Personnel Policy should be looked at. Legally no choice but felt proceedings should have been carried out differently. Voted "No" for removal from Planning Board..

Supervisor Andrews read prepared statement, saying this was hard decision to make. Did not condone Mr. Chess' inappropriate behavior but the case, as presented, was very weak. Hopes this process has helped to clarify where the lines are for inappropriate behavior. Voted "No" for removal from Planning Board.

Councilwoman Cashen agreed with Supervisor Andrews as she read prepared statement. Also voted "No" for removal from Planning Board.

Councilman Weigelt stated Mr. Chess's pattern for inappropriate behavior has been going on for over a year and felt it warranted his removal. He voted "Yes" for removal from Planning Board.

In **Other Business**, Personnel Policy has been on table for over a year. Still needs to be looked at.

Councilman Weigelt, incoming Supervisor, asked for a round of applause for Supervisor Andrews for her time and work on behalf of the residents of Claverack the last four years.

Meeting opened to public:

Nathan Chess – Thanks to Supervisor Andrews and Councilman Preusser.

Ian Nitschke – Funding for Shaw Bridge next year. Among possibilities, Federal Transportation Alternative Program, Consolidating Funding Activity, Department of State and Local Grant Agencies.

Motions and Resolutions:

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to post public notice for Planning Board, ZBA and BAR board members. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve receipt of draft January – November 2013, Final January – October 2013, and draft November 2013 financial statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for Resolution to pay bills as received for 2013. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set 2014 Organizational Meeting for Thursday, January 02, 2014, 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser for resolution as read by Councilwoman Cashen in reference to proposed high power electric lines. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for negative SEQR declaration for Local Law #3 of 2013 (Regulations for Concerts, Exhibitions and Festivals). Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser, for approval of Local Law #3 of 2013, adopting zoning regulations for Concerts, Exhibitions and Festivals for the Town of Claverack. Carried.

Resolution on Removal of Planning Board Member, Nathan Chess, read by Supervisor. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Supervisor to bring this resolution to the table. Voting in favor of retaining Mr. Chess on the Planning Board were Supervisor Andrews, Councilman Preusser and Councilwoman Cashen. Voting for Mr. Chess' removal was Councilman Weigelt. Motion passed for Mr. Chess to maintain his position on the Planning Board. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$14,331.85, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$4,199.73, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$52,899.03, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$3,918.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no other business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Town Clerk: _____