

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**November 14, 2013**

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order directly following the Public Hearing on the 2014 Budget and the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2013 regarding Concerts, Exhibitions and Festivals, by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence.

Present:

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

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of October 10, 2013, Budget and Regular Workshops of October 21, 2013, October 24, 2013 and October 29, 2013. Carried

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – All snow fence has been put up. All of road sand for the year has been hauled in. Snow plows, wings and sanders have been put on all trucks except one and are servicing trucks.

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

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

**Committee Reports**

**Historic Advisory Committee** – November 01, 2013 meeting cancelled.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee** – No report.

**Economic Development Committee** – No report.

**225 Anniversary Committee** – Commemoration of postage stamp – limited edition-225 available – only available for one day, December 05, 2013. Can be cancelled by post office. In addition, that evening, reading of The Night before Christmas.

**Correspondence**

(Including but not limited to)

NYS Public Service Commission – Notice of availability of Intervenor Funding – Second Round  
Columbia County Volunteer Firemen’s’ Association – 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention – Requesting support.  
Marty Bunin – Re: Drainage ditch problem – Old Lane.  
Ellen Jouret Epstein – Upcoming training opportunities.  
Mohawk Valley Community College – Re: Transportation Operations meeting.  
Nicon Zazorin – Drive the monster Underground like they did in Olde New York.

### **Town Board Member Reports**

**Councilman Preusser** – Spoke with Laura Sager of Columbia County Soil and Water and Highway Superintendent LaMont on two grants available – 1. Culvert grant, which would be for Decker Road and grant for the Park to correct drainage problem on ball field.

Set up meeting with Highway Superintendent LaMont and Monoliath Solar Association for Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. to review site and proposal. Will be able to save a minimum 25% the first year.

Will be meeting with Morris Associates to put together plans for Millbrook Bridge project.

CLC Trail Roundtable Meeting at Churchtown Firehouse on Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Thanks to Councilwoman Cashen for working on the ski program with Mary Keeler and Lauren Bell of the Town Clerk’s Office.

Will be working with Highway Superintendent LaMont on the stream grants that were not going to be done this year, but resubmitted for 2014.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons and Supervisor Andrews on draft Concerts, Festivals and Exhibition Law and discussed comments received from Planning Board members.

Attended two budget workshops and provided input for final 2014 Budget.

Sent request to Planning Board, ZBA and Building Department for written annual report on suggested changes to the zoning regulations.

Attended Claverack Planning Board and Town of Ghent Planning Board on Ginsberg’s project.

Worked with Deputy Clerk and volunteer on 2014 Ski Program.

Responded to several constituent concerns regarding the proposed power line expansion through the Town and gathered a draft resolution that will be considered by the Livingston Town Board on this.

Worked on updates to the website related to 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events and Winter Ski Program.

Attended 225<sup>th</sup> Claverack Veterans' Ceremony at Claverack Dutch Reformed Church and the Red Badge of Courage reading event at the Claverack Library.

**Supervisor Andrews** – Thanks to Dot Avery, Sal Cozzolino and Elliott Bristol for Veteran 's Commemoration and cemetery tour at Claverack Dutch Reformed Church as part of the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

Thanks to Claverack Library for readings from Red Badge of Courage.

County – Additional meetings in regards to Columbia County Airport. Committee has been formed and chaired by Art Bassin. Welcomes anyone to committee meetings. He has e-mail information for anyone who would like to be added to list.

Will be budget workshop for Supervisors for 2014 County Budget next Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.

Leonard Behr appointed to County Environmental Management Council by Supervisor. Councilwoman Cashen's term expired and have been looking for a replacement.

At Supervisors' meeting, presentation made on the Healthcare Consortium who are official Navigators for the new healthcare plan. Difference between using an insurance broker and Navigator is getting tax credit. Can also go online and get an idea of the premium you might be paying.

Town – Working on finishing 2014 Budget, which had a 1.66% cap this year. Special thanks to Michele Fuchs for all her work on this and to Highway Superintendent LaMont for cutting expenses so that his staff would be able to have raises. No raises for elected officials.

### **Proposed Motions/Resolutions**

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept Draft October 2013, Draft January – October 2013, and Final January – September 2013 Financial Reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approved the 2014 Budget with the addition of \$500.00 to West Ghent Fire Company, which was deducted from the draft. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve Supervisor to sign agreement with the Village of Philmont for Court Security to be provided by Philmont Police Officers at a per hour amount not to exceed \$23.00. Carried. Start of this contract will have to be worked out with Philmont Village Board.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve revised Personnel Policy for all employees. \$.025 longevity for Highway personnel has been taken out. Carried. Supervisor Andrews stated this covers all employees, not just highway personnel and new employees will now contribute 15% to their health insurance. Town Clerk will distribute copies to all employees.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set continuation of Public Hearing on removal of Planning Board member for Monday, November 25, 2013 – 7:00 p.m. at Claverack Town Hall, #836 Rte. 217, Mellenville, New York. Carried.

Resolution to refinance bond for Highway building: All Board members present voting “Aye” in favor of resolution. This is a refinance of \$850,000.00 over the next eight (8) years at a rate of 2.99% instead of over five (5%) and will save about \$10,000.00 per year.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser authorizing Supervisor Andrews to sign Columbia/Greene Humane Society contract for 2014. This has to be done before January 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Approved.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to participate with Rural Water for free study of Town water sources. Carried. Appointed to committee were Peter Reiss, Steve Melnyk and Richard Ostrander. Mr. Melnyk has not yet consulted.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for resolution to increase permanent improvements appropriation in 2013 Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for resolution to make necessary transfers in 2013 Budget. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution giving authorization to Supervisor Andrews to file tax cap calculation with New York State Comptroller’s Office. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

**Chris Post** – Re: power lines – possible location on Rte. 23B near McNamee property. If lines go over that area, there will be no Hamlet Business 1.

**Nathan Chess** – Thanks to Councilman Preusser and Highway Superintendent LaMont there was meeting on ditches and ditching in Hollowville Creek.

**Ian Nitschke** – Thanks to Nick Zasorin for idea of commemorative stamp for public on December 05, 2013. ( Claverack zip – 12513).

**Bill Blaauw** – Terrible conditions at new Polling place in Philmont – Philmont Nutrition Site. Parking and conditions within building uncalled for.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$10,688.05, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,695.58, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$50,179.55, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$8,214.79, 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 Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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