

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 13, 2014**

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 by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford "Kippy" Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
William Gerlach	Councilman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Brian Keeler, to approve minutes of February 17, 2014 and February 24, 2014 Workshop. Carried.

Steve Winkley, Source Water Protection Specialist, from New York Rural Water Association, spoke regarding program he is working on in the Town of Claverack. Funding has been restored for 1.5 years, which enables him to continue project on ground water protection. Would like to work with a Town Committee to draw up a plan for development and protection of ground water. Gave out information fact sheet, explaining the Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program. The committee would ensure that the completed source water protection plan reflects the needs and desires of the local community. Brian Goodrich from the Planning Board and Chris Post from the Zoning Board of Appeals volunteered to serve on the committee.

New York Rural Water Association will map and delineate the drinking water resources, and, once inventoried and mapped, will assist with an inventory of potential sources of contamination. Then, along with the committee, will assist in the design and implement of realistic management strategies to protect local water resources. Then there would be a plan for the future set up to identify future hazards that could threaten local water resources as well as plan for future water supply needs. Mapping is GSI based and copies of map will be left on Town Office – has been compiled over last 14 years.

Mr. Winkley hopes to have preliminary report completed by end of this year.

Meeting opened to public;

**Michael Brandon**, Town Judge, gave “Thanks” to Highway Department for the much needed shelving installed for court records. This was brought to the Board’s attention at the last meeting and they have already been installed.

**Tim Smith and Ian Nitschke** – Gave information and handed in petition to save Millbrook Bridge. Had signature form for National Historic Register. Requested one year to get a package to save and restore bridge – maybe for one lane traffic. This was included on petition.

This was answered by **Supervisor Weigelt**. If the Town can get a grant, the bridge will be replaced. With help of Highway Department, working on grant to do this. It would take at least \$320,000.00 to upgrade road if bridge is left closed and there are no grants to cover any part of this. **Mr. Nitschke** said fixing bridge can get more grants than replacing it. He also stated Shaw Bridge is his main focus this year. It was also brought up that there could be a link between Shaw Bridge and Millbrook Bridge.

**Councilwoman Cashen** - All options should be looked into. Should be restored for vehicle traffic, but historically done.

**Peter Reiss** – Has known Tim Smith as a historic mason for over 40 years and is valuable resource.

**Mary Hoose** – One big problem arising from Millbrook Bridge closing has been the use of the Highway Garage driveway as a Town Road. Is just a driveway and not built to road specifications. Could also be very dangerous.

**Michael Brandon** – Would upgrading for Orchard Road be covered by some kind of grant? **Supervisor Weigelt** said he would check again, but doesn’t think so.

**Councilman Gerlach** – Ask Chris Gibson’s people. Are the grants suggested in direct conflict with what Mr. Nitschke is saying?

No further comments or questions.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Department has worked 12 snowstorms with men putting in many long hours and doing excellent job.

Servicing equipment, getting ready for spring and cold-patching in all zones.

### **Committee Reports**

**Historic Advisory Committee – Ian Nitschke** – Chris Gibson will help with Shaw Bridge grant.

**Councilman Keeler** questioned whether we have applied and received grants for Shaw Bridge. Yes, \$10,000.00 grant received last year.

**Agricultural Advisory Committee – Peter Reiss** – Gave information received from N.Y.S. Department of Agriculture and Markets sent to Patrick Grattan, Chairman of the Columbia County Board of Supervisors, regarding County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. Approved Columbia County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and commended County Board of Supervisors and Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board for their initiatives and effort in developing the Columbia County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan. The Department encouraged the County to follow

recommended actions contained in the Plan. A copy of this letter is available at the Town Office for anyone interested.

### Correspondence

Columbia County Volunteer Firemen's Association – 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
Lalberge Group – Round 4 of the Consolidated Funding Applications  
Hudson Estuary Program's "Woods in your Backyard": Register by Friday  
Empire State development-Columbia County Hurricane Irene – Tropical Storm Lee  
Flood Mitigation Capital Project Public Hearing  
National Grid – Coping with high winter bills  
Farmers and families for Livingston & Claverack – Meeting March 04, 2014 – and PSC  
Meeting on March 06, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.- Stuyvesant Town Hall  
Concern from Joe Cardinale – re: 5 acre minimum parcels in new zoning  
Columbia County Office of Aging – Senior Citizen of the Year 2014 Nomination Form  
Nick Zatorin – Re: 1880 Topographical Map of Claverack  
Public Service Commission – Expedited Transmission Review Process Considered  
Columbia County Historical Society – Lecture: Tuesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m. at  
Vanderpoel House of History, Kinderhook  
Farmers and Families of Claverack – Article – "More Power Lines in our Future?"  
COARC – Live Well Community Health Fair – CGCC – March 18<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Tim Smith – Re: Millbrook Bridge

### Town Board Reports

**Councilman Gerlach** – Met with Town CPA along with **Councilman Keeler**. Very informative – worked on budget process. Down the road with 2% cap, will bring some challenges in three to four years. Presently, for today and tomorrow, Town in good shape.

**Councilman Keeler** – Met with A.B. Shaw Fire Company – Open dialogue and very informative meeting. Fire Company presented needs, finances, short and long term planning. Tour of new facility also given. **Supervisor Weigelt** would like to see how Town can help them do their job. All members are volunteers and regulations are getting tougher.

Town Board will also be conducting these meetings with the other fire companies.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Provided necessary information to broker for 2014 Town insurance quote.

Attended Planning Board Meeting and followed up on issues regarding need for special counsel for Pine Haven Project, and reimbursement for professional fees for Planning and ZBA review of project

Worked with new webmaster to update website with new forms that can be filled out electronically and also other necessary updates.

Attended meeting in Stuyvesant, where Public Service Commission officials made presentation. Because of new efforts, Law Judges are to come out with proposals – still uncertain if eminent domain will be

taken off table, and, because of Cuomo effort, are asked to keep lines within right of ways. Ian Solomon, representative from Farmers and Friends of Claverack, to come to next meeting.

Worked on draft recommendations for annual zoning code updates to be discussed at future Town Board Workshop meeting.

**Councilman Hook** – ZBA and Planning Board fees have not been changed since 1996 – need to be discussed and, based on other Towns, need to be updated.

**Supervisor Weigelt** – Attended County Committee Meetings. Is on Pine Haven sub-committee and has been asked to join Airport sub-committee. Looking into cost of whether purchasing land will be cheaper than moving runway. Moving runway may impact Ginsberg Project and would like to avoid this. Will report further as discussions continue.

Pine Haven Project Committee continues to discuss how the building is going to be built and maintained. Need to make sure County has finances, but needs to be done quickly as building deadline is October 2015. County is looking at cost closely. As per Mr. Robinson, Town is to be reimbursed for engineering and counsel fees by County, but Supervisor Weigelt will call him to make sure.

Town – Permission received for use of speed monitoring trailer from Greenport.

Motion made at last month's Workshop for 6 month trial with Viridian Energy to reduce supply costs on all Town electric bills. Happy because not only is it supposed to save the Town money, but the energy used by the Town will be reduced by 50% more green energy than State mandates.

Regarding Ginsberg Project, 25% is in Claverack and 75% in the Town of Ghent. This is joint venture for both Towns. **Brian Goodrich**, Chairman of Claverack Planning Board, stated Jeff Baker will be special counsel for this project also. Written communication from the County for reimbursement for legal and engineering expenses will be requested.

Laura Sager is doing paperwork for grant for stream cleanup but needs some more information. Will speak with Superintendent of Highways regarding this.

End of report.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to renew insurance from same Company as last year with Supervisor Weigelt authorized to sign necessary paperwork. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to go out to bid for Summer Youth Program and Winter Ski Program. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to appoint Richard Gerlach as Planning Board member, effective through December 31, 2018. Carried, with Supervisor Weigelt and Councilman Gerlach abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – February 2014, draft February 2014 and draft January – December 2013 financial reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to appoint Jeff Baker as special counsel for the Pine Haven Project, contingent on written notification from the County that legal and engineering expenses will be covered. Carried. Attorney Baker is already special counsel for Ginsberg Project.

Meeting opened to public:

**David Graziano** – Typographical error in February 2014 Regular Monthly Meeting under Pine Haven Project information given by David Robinson. Should be 112,000 sq. ft. for new two story building.

**Peter Reiss** - Acknowledged and commended fire companies.

Also questioned cutting down of trees by NYSEG and formally objects to this. Is this totally arbitrary? Will check into parameters. This is also being done by National Grid. **Supervisor Weigelt** stated they have a right to do this on right of ways. Any utility company has this same right.

**Ian Nitschke** – Shaw Bridge on National Register and was celebrated historic event. Why doesn't Town acknowledge Millbrook Bridge? **Councilman Gerlach** answered that since 1980's, nothing has been done and now in 2014 do we have the ability to handle two bridges at once? **Supervisor Weigelt** stated that it is hard to just let Millbrook Bridge just sit there when there is a good road to be used by vehicle traffic, which has to be put somewhere. To pay \$300,000.00 to repair anything is scary. If we decide to keep the bridge closed, surrounding roads would need to be upgraded at cost to the Town since not eligible for grants for road work. Shaw Bridge and Millbrook Bridge are two entirely different bridges.

It was also stated that many years have gone by and nothing much has been done with Shaw Bridge.

**Chris Post** – Great events for 225 Anniversary Year and work done by volunteers. Suggested sending letter to organizer, Jeane LaPorta .

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Excellent Ski Program this year – many more participants than in recent past years. Thanks go to Mary Daly and Loren Bell for working together on program.

No further comments or questions.

General A bills, totaling \$26,652.94, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$804.07, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$38,001.87, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$3,035.00, 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 Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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

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

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

Councilman Gerlach: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Keeler: \_\_\_\_\_

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

