

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

December 11, 2014

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Meeting opened at 7:08 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing for the Churchtown Fire District Contract.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
William Gerlach	Councilman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for Town
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:	Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
	Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to accept minutes of the previous Regular Monthly Meeting of November 13, 2014 and the Monthly Workshop Meeting of November 24, 2014. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – Chair of the Historical Advisory Committee reported that the Town’s Consolidated Funding Application to receive a grant for the Shaw Bridge was denied. He expressed the Historical Committee’s disappointment but shared that this was a good experience for applying next year. The process allows for those applicants who were denied to meet with Funding staff for input on their application and why it may not have been selected.

Ian also shared that other than the Consolidated Funds through the New York State offices of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation, there are other avenues to receive funds. Those being through the Department of State, DOT DTAP funds.

Councilwoman Cashen inquired when the next deadline was and was informed by Mr. Nitschke that it was June 2015. He further explained that this past application cycle was only (1) month long and that for 2015 there will be more time to prepare when they apply.

Mr. Nitschke continued to explain that there are a couple of small foundations and local businesses who can help the Town procure “matching funds” that are a requirement for any grant we may receive.

Councilman Keeler acknowledged all the time and effort Mr. Nitschke has put into the application and what a great job he and his committee did.

Supervisor Weigelt took the opportunity to remind Mr. Nitschke of the Town Board is not receiving reports from committee chairs anymore because they are using the public comments portion of the meeting to deliver their reports rather than during their designated agenda slot. Mr. Weigelt asked that the Town Clerk be informed if a report is going to be presented at the Board Meeting.

Nicon Zasorin – Asked of Mr. Nitschke if the archiving of the Shaw Bridge that was supposed to be completed was ever turned into the Town Clerk? - This has not been completed yet.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Supervisor Weigelt explained Superintendent LaMont and his crew were out the previous night due to inclement weather and was not in attendance this evening. He explained that it was a bad storm but what a great job the Highway department did clearing the roads. Supervisor Weigelt commended the highway department for fixing a truck during the storm and getting it back in service very quickly.

Dog Control officer's Report for November was received and on file in the Town Office for review.

There were no Committee Reports except the earlier report from **Historical Committee Chair Ian Nitschke**.

Correspondence

Included, but not limited to the following:

- Customers Bank – re: Municipality Program
- PVTN Webinar for Municipal Leaders
- Choose Columbia County – Re: CEN Manufacturing Scholarships
- Fingar Insurance Brochure
- Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress 50th Anniversary Campaign
- New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal flyer
- Center for Economic Growth – Invitation

Supervisor's Report

On the County level: **Pine Haven** – There will be a full Board vote on 12/15/14 following a public hearing at 6:30pm regarding the 3 bids received from potential purchasers of the facility. The bids will be opened in an executive session prior to the public hearing and narrowed down to two for the full board's vote.

There have been new developments regarding Ginsburg's Foods that Councilwoman Cashen will discuss. Councilwoman Cashen stated she has nothing new to report even though there is a lot of local talk regarding this project.

Town Board Members Reports

Councilman Hook – Met with Building Inspector Stan Koloski to talk about changing the fee structure of permits for 2015 and will discuss this at the next workshop to be voted on at the February 2015 meeting. Also, as liaison to the Town Court was part of the auditing process that occurred. Commented that the Town Court has the best kept books he has ever seen. They are very organized and clear and that the clerks do an excellent job.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended the latest Planning Board meeting. Also noted that she is working with Attorney Fitzsimmons as well as Planning Board members on updating and renumbering our Zoning Law due to recent changes. These are just numerical changes and not content changes but the Town Board will need to pass the new document when it is completed.

Worked with **Councilman Gerlach** regarding the Town's Insurance with our broker from Johnny Walker Insurance. As of today all is status quo but trying to stay ahead as renewal occurs in April 2015.

Worked with Town Clerk office staff and webmaster to make necessary web updates on the town website.

Councilman Keeler – Along with the Town Board toured the West Ghent Fire Department. Remarked that it was a great tour and he was very impressed with the facility. They spoke with officials and members and were shown their current equipment. Is looking to set up a tour of Churchtown in January 2015.

Councilman Gerlach – Met with Councilwoman Cashen and Richard Nesbitt the Town's Insurance broker to discuss the Town's Insurance, where we stand for renewal in April 2015. Also, along with the Board visited the West Ghent Fire Department. Remarked that it was very eye opening that in 2 square miles this department has the responsibility of 30 businesses located in the Commerce Park.

End of Reports.

Motion by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilman Hook to approve Financial Statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to award the bid to Monolith Solar for Highway Garage Roof Solar panels as per bid specifications. Carried. To have the Town Engineer contact Monolith Solar directly.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve 2015 Columbia Green Humane Society Contract. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to cancel the December 29th workshop. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set the 2015 Organization Meeting for Thursday, January 8th prior to the Regular Town Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m. Carried.

As read by Councilman Keeler, Resolution to approve the Town Court of the Town of Claverack required examination as completed for the Year 2013 and 2014 and all is in order was put forth by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to pay all bills covering goods and services as received for the remainder of 2014. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to prepare any and all appropriate budget transfers as necessary. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept the West Ghent Fire District Contract for the year 2015. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept the Churchtown Fire District Contract for the year 2015. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept Local Law #3. Carried.

In Other Business, Supervisor Weigelt discussed wanting to send a letter to the Town of Greenport and Taghkanic regarding potential sharing of resources. He would like to set up a meeting with them in January for further discussion.

Meeting opened to public:

Nicon Zasorin and Councilwoman Cashen discussed the sale of the Old Claverack School located on Route 23B and its property included in the sale.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Weigelt closed the public comments and motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss finances and litigation at 7:47 p.m., seconded by Councilman Hook.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to close the Executive Session at 8:23 p.m.

General A bills, totaling \$10,826.78, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$622.55, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$32,929.94, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,110.40, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow accounts bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____