

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

May 8, 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
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Lauren Bell	Deputy Town Clerk

Absent:

William Gerlach	Councilman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of April 10, 2014 and Workshop minutes of April 28, 2014. Carried

Opened to Public

Gig Barton - Resident of Stickles Road inquired about the status of the Millbrook Bridge opening. Since the Town Highway has closed their driveway, there has been an increase of traffic on his road, specifically speeding traffic.

Supervisor Weigelt responded that the project is at a standstill at the State level because they are re-evaluating our application. The State Department of Park & Recreation are involved now and are looking deeper into our application. He also stated that he is not sure if there will be any movement this year.

Mr. Barton asked what the Town's position was and Supervisor Weigelt responded that we are looking into all option to do something to get traffic through this area.

Carolyn Wilber - a resident of Stickles Road asked for clarification as to why the State Department of Parks and Recreation was involved and it was explained, because they are the State Department of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation. Mrs. Wilber inquired if this organization checks the neighboring roads for the impact a bridge closing has on the neighboring roads. Supervisor Weigelt was unsure if this occurs.

Mrs. Wilber brought up the fact that traffic on Stickles Road has increased by three times since the closing of the Bridge and four times since the Highway department closed their driveway. She stated that there are deep ditches and holes on Stickles road now because of this increase. Supervisor Weigelt responded that the Town Board knew this was going to be a result of the driveway closing but Superintendent LaMont had no choice but to close the driveway due to insurance reasons as well as recent thefts that have occurred. He also reminded the public that it was a Highway Driveway NOT a road.

Mrs. Wilber continued that the problems residents face are very dangerous blind spots and that this situation is very frustrating

Supervisor Weigelt responded that he has been very frustrated with this whole process and feels that bridges should not be closed down. As a Town we have researched how to get the cost down to get a replacement bridge but all of this is out of our hands now and unfortunately it is looking like we are going to run out of time in 2014 due to DEC Trout stream time constraints.

Mrs. Wilber inquired who residents can contact and Superintendent LaMont stated that they should start their own petition in favor of replacing the bridge.

There continued minimal discussion regarding NYS Trooper patrolling. Mr. Barton stated that the road traffic needed to slow down and maintain the speed limit.

Supervisor Weigelt responded that he was happy that residents were here tonight in favor of the bridge replacement because this was a perspective that Town Board had not heard before. He continued that IF the bridge does not get fixed the next step is for the roads to be fixed.

Mrs. Wilber remarked that they have not attended in the past because they thought the bridge was going to be fixed and now it is not.

Supervisor Weigelt stated that the reality of this situation is that he has been pushing to fix the bridge from the start and now the process is out of his hands and this all becomes a time consuming process and reminded that they needed to be out of the Trout stream by October and there has been no work started on it.

Nicon Zasorin – a Town resident asked if the State can take the Historical significance question out of the Town's hands. Supervisor Weigelt was unsure and is hoping to hear a decision soon.

Mr. Barton asked if the Town can open the bridge in the interim and Superintendent LaMont responded that the bridge has been Red Flagged by the State and has been deemed unsafe that is why he put piles of dirt just before the bridge to deter any access across.

Supervisor Weigelt concluded the Town Board is trying to keep the residents in the loop and that you can call him, the Town Office, or Superintendent LaMont to do so. The discussion was then tabled.

Lisa Bowe – wanted to thank the Highway department for handling a leaning tree issue on her property within 24 hours of the occurrence.

Close of Public comments

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Snow fencing has been taken down and stored away for next year. Continued Sweeping of the roads. Finished up ditching on Tishouser Road and have now moved onto Roxbury Road. Have taken off the Wings on the plows.

Opened the Park and began replacement of field backstop.

End of report.

Committee Reports

Historic Preservation Advisory Committee – Ian Nitschke – Chair was absent and asked Councilwoman Cashen to read his report. This report is also on file in the Town Office. In regards to the Shaw Bridge the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) program became active on May 1 and the committee is working on applying for a grant through the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation Program. Workshops for the CFA application were announced.

Councilwoman Cashen interjected that any grants need to be approved by the Town Board prior to submittal for review and that the grant that is being applied for is for the actual work on the bridge. Councilman Keeler clarified that the Historic Preservation Committee would do the grant and then the Town Board would review it.

Agriculture Advisory Committee – Chairman Peter Reiss. Mr. Reiss addressed the Town Board and moved to have them support the Application of the Columbia Land Conservancy and Scenic Hudson 2014 FRPP/ALE Application. This would facilitate the protection of 1250 acres with zero impact on taxes. This program would enhance agricultural profit and as chair of the committee Mr. Reiss requested the Town Board's support.

Councilwoman Cashen further explained that only 59 acres were located in the Town of Claverack on land that residents would be unable to build on anyway.

Mr. Reiss also stated that he trusts the Columbia Land Conservancy because they honor what they say.

Supervisor Weigelt questioned if this would affect surrounding landowners and the answer was No. He also reiterated that the Board has to be careful they do not approve anything that could potentially negatively affect the neighbors later on. Councilwoman Cashen advised that this would in no way impact the tax base.

Councilman Keeler asked to clarify if this was for an easement. Yes, the program title is Agricultural Land Easement. He further asked who the application would go to and was answered, The US Department of Agriculture.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

- Claverack Library – Campaign for Claverack
- Supervisor Knott – Re: Pine Haven
- Mary Prazma – Re: Pine Haven

- Columbia County Department of Public Works – Re: Reduced Bridge Load Limit
 - o Mellenville Paper Mill Bridge
- Karen Morth – Re: Pine Haven
- Village of Philmont – Community Day, Saturday, June 28, 2014
- Jim Van Alstyne – Re: Water District #1
- Rapport Meyers – Re: Bond Council services change
- Triform Camphill Village – Re: Farm/Garden Tour May 23, 2014 3-5p

Supervisor's Report

Reviewed from correspondence the Mellenville Paper Mill Bridge tonnage has been reduced. Announced in conjunction with the County Clerks' office a "KISS" or Senior Shredding Day to take place June 6, 2014. The shredding bins to be located behind the Town Office building.

In regards to Pine Haven Home, Supervisor Weigelt stated he is working on it. He stated that there needs to be more petitions that will make the other Supervisors aware of their positions. Regarding the operation of the facility, Supervisor Weigelt said the Board of Supervisors needs to make sure the facility does not lose a lot of money since a lot of nursing home facilities are closing and going to private because of this loss of funds. Like the Airport project the County just voted on, the Board of Supervisors needs to look at all aspects.

Peter Reiss congratulated Supervisor Weigelt for the good job the Board of Supervisors did on the Airport.

Supervisor Weigelt followed up regarding Pine Haven, stating the community and Town residents need to send letters and get involved. He also stated he had a meeting with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett on Friday, May 9th at 12 noon to discuss the Town and Pine Haven.

Town Board Member's Report

Councilwoman Cashen - Attended Planning Board meeting as well as the Joint Claverack/Ghent Planning Board meeting on the Ginsberg's project. Worked with the webmaster to put all necessary documents related to this project on the website.

Worked with the Deputy Clerk to update the Youth Camp application to be put on the Town's website.

Updated recommendations for annual zoning code updates based on feedback received from members of the Zoning and Planning Board, the Building Inspector as well as the Town Board at the April workshop. This process is still ongoing.

Edited the personnel policy manual and worked with the Town Attorney for review.

Drafted a resolution for Pine Haven

Worked with **Peter Reiss** on the Agricultural Lands Easement (ALE) funding letter for Town Board approval.

Spoke with the Town's Insurance broker regarding solar panel installation at the Town Garage.

Councilman Keeler – Attended a tour of the Mellenville Volunteer Fire Department. Talked with the department about their concerns, budget, and aging man power. A meeting with the Village of Philmont Fire Department soon.

Worked with **Louis Lamont** on Water District issues.

Will be meeting with **Brett Holmes** the Youth Camp director soon to go over counselor applications soon.

End of Reports.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft April 2014 financial reports.

Resolution to approve Small Urban Area Boundaries as read by Supervisor Weigelt was put forth by Councilwoman Cashen and seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Motion to appoint Councilman Hook and Councilwoman Cashen to the Churchtown Fire LOSAP Advisory Council by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen.

Resolution to create a “Highway Equipment Reserve Fund” was put forth by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen. Carried. Councilwoman clarified that all purchases would still have to be approved by the Town Board, this was agreed.

Resolution to transfer funds to establish DA Highway Reserve for Equipment was set forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Resolution to Increase CHIPS Funds Appropriation was put forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Resolution to transfer funds within the 2014 Budget was put forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried

Supervisor Weigelt explained the need for this transfer was to replace bad fencing on one of the Town Park’s Ball fields.

Motion to approve AC Fencing as the final quote for the Ball Field Fence replacement by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen.

The bid was for \$10,900.00.

Resolution of Support to Pine Haven Home read and put forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Motion to approve Rodenhause Chale as new Bond Council by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler.

Motion to approve letter of Support to Columbia Land Conservancy by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler.

Peter Reiss thanked the Board for their support

General A Fund bills, totaling \$21,186.24 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$1,409.93 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$15,727.92 were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$5064.41 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 of Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Deputy Clerk: _____