

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

November 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 opened by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on the 2015 Budget.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
William Gerlach	Councilman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of October 09, 2014 and Monthly Workshop Meeting of October 27, 2014. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Jeane LaPorta – Town Historian presented to the Board the pictorial documentation of the 2013-2014 commemorative events and topics of interest throughout the town. She reported that she attended the October 04, 2014 meeting of the Association of Public Historians District 4 at the Zadock Pratt Museum Prattsville. Bovina Historian Ray La Fevre spoke on the reconstruction and preservation of Prattsville after the Irene Flood of 2011 when nearly everything in Prattsville, including the museum, were submerged in flood waters. Questioned what the Town has for safe storage in event of natural disaster. Town has separate room for records, but not fireproof or waterproof, a safe and several fireproof fire cabinets. Mrs. LaPorta also attended the Lincoln Train Meeting at Stuyvesant Town Hall on October 25, 2014. She would like to form a committee in the interest of commemorating the Lincoln Train 150th anniversary on April 25, 2015 along with Stuyvesant and Hudson and other towns in the County. Suggestions included programs at the libraries, ringing of church bells to commemorate the hour when the train passed through Hudson, concerts and reenactments. Committee would oversee and coordinate activities.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Grader patched Manor Rock Road and Humane Society Road. Snow fence put up for winter, plow wings and sanders on trucks preparing for winter and salt and sand hauled in for winter.

Building Inspector's Report 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.

There were no Committee Reports except the earlier report from **Town Historian Jeane LaPorta**.

Correspondence

Included, but not limited to the following:

COARC Annual Report
Columbia County Planning & Economic Development – Re: Region 3 Columbia County
Planning Board Membership Nomination
West Ghent Volunteer Fire Co. – James E. Cesternino, Chief – Re: Ginsberg Project
Heroic Farms Veterans Day Open House
Association of Towns – Re: Municipal Energy
E-mail – Jodi Keyser, Secretary ZBA – Combined November/December ZBA Meeting –
December 03, 2014
Donna Davey – Comment for 10/23/2014 Public Hearing regarding Ginsberg Project
Columbia County Treasurer – Re: Accepting Credit/Debit transactions for Delinquent
taxes
Taconic Hills Central School District – Resolution against Ginsberg’s application for the
PILOT program
E-mail – Katy Cashen – Councilwoman – Re: Hudson City School District approval of
local artist’s bid to purchase the Claverack School
Christine Vanderlan – Re: Harlem Valley Rail Trail Progress
MEGA Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance – Re: Lowering energy bills
E-mail – Conversation between Beil Howard and Kenneth Flood Re: Ginsberg’s IDA and
PILOT
Christine Vanderlan – Re: Upcoming events for Conservation Planning in Columbia
County
E-mail – Patti Matheney – Re: Proposed Ginsberg deviation from Uniform Tax
Exemption Policy and PILOT programs
Virtual Town Hall – Re: Website upgrade packages

The above is on file in the Town Office and available with the Town Clerk before and after the Board Meeting.

Supervisor’s Report

On the County level: **Pine Haven** – Paperwork being analyzed and still waiting for all information to be received.

Town Board Members Reports

Councilman Hook – Attended joint meeting on consolidation of water districts. Attended Planning Board meetings.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Claverack Planning Board meeting and joint Ghent/Claverack Planning Board meetings on the Ginsberg Project. Also attended the Columbia County IDA Public Hearing on the Ginsberg Project.

Attended, along with other Town Board members, the October 19th power line meeting at the Churchtown Firehouse. She had also received information from Ian Solomon that he had completed distribution to all five commissioners, relevant senior staff of the Public Service Commission, the two ALJs and all 120 parties in the AC transmission cases. Also sent a copy to Erin Hogan, Director of UIU and her chief counsel, Saul Rigberg and Charlie Donaldson in the Attorney General's office. He also attached a fact sheet produced with the Collaboration of the Hudson Valley Smart Energy Coalition that addresses the need issue associated with new AC transmission lines in the Hudson Valley.

Attended Harlem Valley Rail Trail briefing for new trail from Preusser Road through Philmont and ending in Chatham.

Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons to update zoning law with recent amendments to make one document.

Worked with office staff and webmaster to make updates to Town website.

Assisted in organizing an open house last week at Old Fish and Game Farm.

Brian Goodrich, Chairman of Town of Claverack Planning Board, gave synopsis of the Ginsberg Project which began in November of 2013. Ghent Planning Board is lead agency in project and joint Planning Board Meetings began in February 2014. SEQRA Negative Declaration made in June 2014. Article 78 on behalf of neighbors filed on August 10, 2014 for errors of lawful procedure. Both Towns ZBA's approved variances.

Independent Fire Protection Assessment, prepared by Douglas Nadeau, President of RAN Fire Protection Engineering was reviewed. Ginsberg's facility will meet with, and in cases, exceed the requirements mandated by the Building and Fire Codes and will not have an impact on the Ghent Fire Department's ISU rating. Ginsberg's has proposed 316,000 gallons of water that would be available for fire protection of nearby facilities.

Another Article 78 has been filed on behalf of neighbors; this one against Ghent ZBA. It pertains to Section 190-28 of Ghent Zoning.

Voting on motion for "Approval with Conditions" was approved by Claverack Planning Board, with a vote of 6 "Yes" and 1 "No" with Ghent Planning Board voting 1 "Yes" and 5 "No". Project was not approved and also not dis-approved. Application is still open before the West Ghent Planning Board. Site Plans have been stamped "Approved with Conditions" for Claverack Planning Board.

Ghent Planning Board and Ginsberg representatives will continue to meet. Up to three members of Claverack Planning Board will attend, but will not participate in the Ghent Planning Board Meetings on the project. If an agreement is reached, Town of Claverack Planning Board will review and vote on changes.

A Thank You to Jodi Keyser for stepping up and assisting at last meeting.

Councilman Keeler – Will be meeting with West Ghent Fire Company next week.

Attended power line meeting at Churchtown Firehouse.

Councilman Gerlach – Thank you to bookkeeper, Michele Fuchs, for working on putting 2015 budget together with Town Board.

Attended power line meeting at Churchtown Firehouse.

Will be meeting with West Ghent Fire Company next week.

End of reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept draft October 2014, draft January – October 2014, and Final January – September 2014 Financial Reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to authorize Supervisor to instigate the filing of the Tax Cap documents to the New York State Office of the State Comptroller for the Budget Year 2015. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to authorize the Supervisor authority to file the Tax Cap calculation showing that the 2015 Budget does not exceed the maximum tax cap increase. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to adopt the 2015 Budget for the Town of Claverack. Carried.

After explanation by Town Clerk, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to set up public hearing on Local Law #3 in regards to additions to the Town Dog Law. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to set up public hearings on Churchtown Fire District and West Ghent Fire District contracts. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Peter Reiss – Requested information on former Ockawamick School building now owned by the County. County has accepted bid from Eleanor Ambos and expects to close before end of the year. The two acres contracted to the Town by the County many years ago will be subdivided and deeded over to the Town.

No further questions or comments.

General A bills, totaling \$7,688.73, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,734.45, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$106,461.02, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,465.60 were audited and ordered paid from the account.

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 Gerlach, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Town Clerk: _____