

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

January 09, 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 at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt. This meeting followed the 2014 Organizational Meeting, which was scheduled for Thursday, January 02, 2014, but was postponed due to inclement weather.

After short presentation by Supervisor Weigelt, motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Hook to appoint William Gerlach to the Town Board, filling the seat held by Supervisor Weigelt. This position will be for an unexpired term and will be in the General Election in November 2014. Motion carried. Mr. Gerlach was then welcomed to the Board by the Supervisor.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler, to accept minutes of December 13, 2013 meeting. Carried with additions to last week's Resolution #43, relating to the transmission line extension. Addition was to include government officials, both local and State, and also including Administrative Law Judges who will be ruling on the proceeding. A new Resolution #31 will be prepared. On page 4 of the minutes, paragraph #6, "bipartisan politics" should be "partisan politics".

Meeting opened to public:

A Hollowville resident questioned the status of using the Greenport speed sign on Rte. #27B and other areas in the Town. A mutual agreement is in the process and speed sign will be put into use shortly.

David Graziano asked about opening the public input period at the end of the meeting as well as the beginning. Supervisor Weigelt agreed to try this.

There were also congratulations to all the new members of the Board.

Town Judge Michael Brandon thanked Supervisor Weigelt for coming to last court proceedings on Tuesday. Would welcome anyone to come to a meeting to see how the Court operates. Court meets every Tuesday, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

No further comments

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Department has worked 13 snow, sleet and ice storms, with the men putting in many hours and doing a great job. More sand and salt hauled in due to use of the materials on these storms.

Dog Control Officer's Report received and on file in Town office for review.

Building Inspector's Report for December and Year 2013 received and on file in Town Office for review. Councilwoman Cashen stated a large increase in building permits in the past year.

Committee Reports

Historic Advisory Committee - Ian Nitschke – Will be meeting this coming Saturday at the Town Hall. Usually meet on Fridays, so after discussion, will have to divide room as there is already a requested use for the room. The Town Office needs to have requests for the use of meeting rooms, both the Town Hall and Town Office Building so that this does not happen.

Agriculture Advisory Committee – Peter Reiss – Read report and report given to Town Clerk for anyone to review. Report entitled “**Local Economics Project Announces Innovative “Farm Hub” to Support Hudson Valley Agriculture.** The Farm Hub will be a major center for sustainable agriculture in the Hudson Valley, offering programs and research opportunities to strengthen farming and food systems in the local community and the region. Gill Farms will be a part of this program and John Gill, the farm’s current owner and life-long Ulster County resident, will be involved in the transition of the property from private farm to education and research center and will remain in the position of Farm Manager. Master planning for the new Farm Hub will begin in early 2014 and slated to begin operations on-site by the spring of 2015.

Mr. Reiss remarked that there are more and more young people interested in farming.

No further Committee Reports received.

Correspondence

National Grid – Important Natural Gas Safety Information

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia & Greene Counties – Winter workshops and news

Robin DeGroat – Hudson Valley Partners for Progress-Congressmen Gibson and Maloney-Monday, Jan.27, 2014

Ellen Jouret-Epstein – Introducing New Community Projects Manager

Racy Auto Sales, Inc. – Refurbishes bucket trucks

It was also noted that there are many interested in serving on the various Boards and Committees. These will be discussed at the monthly workshop.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Cashen – As liaison, attended January 06, 2014 Planning Board Meeting and discussed various issues with incoming chairman. Proactive on Ginsberg Project and working together with Town of Ghent to get approval.

Reviewed responses received from Request for Quotes for a new webmaster for the Town’s website and provided feedback and input to Town Supervisor and office staff. Met with prospective vendor to go over details of maintenance and support of website.

Responded to requests and questions from Town residents on Winter Ski Program and referred them to Deputy Clerk for follow-up. Program begins this coming Saturday for six Saturdays.

Councilman Keeler – Meeting on proposed power lines is Saturday, January 25, 2014, 11:00 a.m. at the Churchtown Firehouse.

Supervisor Weigelt – Is a member of the County Pine Haven Committee and the Airport Committee. Will report back to the Town as things develop.

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to appoint Trevellyan as webmaster for the Town. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons read the SEQR for Millbrook Bridge, which is a new form, changed since October 2013. This does not commit the Town to do this project. After discussion, it was decided to table this until the next workshop where there will be more discussion.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to accept draft financial reports. Carried.

Meeting opened to Public:

Comments on Millbrook Bridge Project:

Ian Nitschke – NYS Department of Transportation study of all bridges – one of few that could be on National Register.

Michael Brandon – Think of mobility and safety of citizens. Can't believe how people go through road by Town Garage, which is not a public road.

Peter Reiss – Plaque could be used on new structure. Superintendent of Highways LaMont stated that it is in the contract to save plaque.

End of public comments.

General A bills, totaling \$4,377.51, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$285.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$80.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Water Department bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Town Clerk: _____