

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

April 09, 2015

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 at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
William Gerlach	Councilman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of previous Regular Monthly Meeting of March 12, 2015 and Monthly Workshop of March 30, 2015. Carried

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Men have been covering rough spots on the dirt roads, cold patching in all zones and sweeping in all zones. Due to the severe winter the roads are not looking good and will be in need of much repair.

They have also been servicing highway equipment.

Committee Reports

The only Committee Report received was the Historian's Report – Councilwoman Cashen read the report in the Absence of Historian, **Jeane La Porta**.

Ian Nitschke reported there was bell ringing today at 3:15 p.m. for four minutes to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. The bell ringing was from the Dutch Reformed Church of Claverack.

Supervisor's Report

The County has been discussing shared services as has the Town. Highway Superintendent LaMont will check into this and see if the County can help out.

The annual Philmont Community Day will be held on Saturday, June 06, 2015. The Town Board has been invited to participate.

S & F Communications has inquired about where the Town stands on a new telephone program, which they presented quite some time ago. Town is going ahead with this.

Columbia County again has a program for Summer Youth Employment as in past years. Each Town is allowed one youth interested in the program. Anyone interested should contact the Town Office or the Supervisor by May 1st.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that the New York State Governor is "forcing" Towns to begin putting together programs of shared services. There is also a bonus if Towns stay within the 2% cap or less. There is an explanation of the Governor's plans through New York State Association of Counties at the Town Office for anyone interested.

The Town received the certificate from the Association of Towns stating the Town is a member of the Association for the Year 2015.

Supervisors have received copies of Advisory Opinion No. 12-02 from the Columbia County Board of Ethics. Included with the letter is a Financial Disclosure Statement for the calendar year 2012.

Town Board Members' Reports

Councilman Hook – Attended TRANSCO open-house meeting at Churchtown Firehouse, where representatives were present to explain their program and answer questions regarding the power line project.

Motion by Councilman Hook seconded by Councilman Gerlach, to set public hearing to change Town Assessors from three elected officials to one appointed official. Claverack is one of two Towns on the county with more than one elected assessor. The rest of the Towns have already changed.

Councilwoman Cashen – Also attended the open-house with other Board members at Churchtown Firehouse with TRANSCO representatives. Deadline for proposals is April 15th. The Public Service Commission will hold a technical meeting in June to look at the need for this expansion.

Attended Planning and Zoning meetings last month. Verizon is applying to put a new tower behind the A.B. Shaw Firehouse. Will be doing balloon test within next couple of weeks. Town will put a notice on the website and they will also notify the newspaper when the time is decided. They also own a tower on Snyderstown Road.

She has been working with Deputy Clerk updating the website, including new fee schedule and the Summer Youth Program, which will run from Monday, July 6th to Friday, August 14th.

Has also met with insurance broker to review coming year renewal and cablevision representative at the monthly workshop. Provided comments and questions on draft cablevision contract.

Councilman Keeler – Also attended National Grid meeting.

Working on meeting with fire companies in the Town as a group to discuss shared services.

Councilman Gerlach – Also attended National Grid Meeting and working to meet with all fire companies in the Town to discuss possibility of shared services.

No further reports

Meeting opened to public –

Ian Nitschke – Dutch Reformed Church will be celebrating 300th Anniversary in 2016. Working on having celebration in conjunction with a daffodil festival and would like to plant daffodils throughout the hamlet.

Working on having Claverack Creek designated an inland waterway. Would open it up to many funding opportunities.

Working again this year on Consolidated Funding Grant for Shaw Bridge project.

Has strong objection to destroying and replacing Millbrook Bridge. Stated by Supervisor Weigelt that this has already been approved. Sign on bridge will be saved. **Gig Barton** stated this is just a concrete bridge and had presented a petition last fall with signatures of those in the local area who want the bridge replaced and reopened to traffic for many reason, including emergency vehicles, when time is very important. There are also three new residences planned for Triform Community, which is near the bridge.

Susan Roberts – Representing Claverack Free Library and Reading Room. Will be getting petitions to increase funding by \$10,000.00. Present funding from Town is \$48,500.00. Village of Philmont cannot be separated out from the vote. . Petitions must be given to the Town by early June and must go to the Board of Elections 36 days before Election Day in November.

End of comments.

Town received request from Columbia County Office of the Aging, requesting waiver of fees for use of the Town Park facilities for their annual volunteer appreciation program. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve same. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler for resolution for the agreement for the expenditure of Highway monies for road work this summer. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution for the Town to pay A. B. Shaw Fire Company the rental fee of \$100.00 per meeting of the Claverack Senior Citizens Group. Presently they meet once a month at the Town Hall and have outgrown it with addition of new members. Carried, with Councilman Keeler abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to proceed with securing of a bond for Millbrook Bridge project of \$400,000.00. This will be done in case a grant is not received. If received in time, securing of a bond will not be necessary.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to renew Town insurance with present carrier. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to advertise for transportation bids for Summer Youth Program and Winter Ski Program. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to go out for bid for purchase of a culvert for the Millbrook Project. Carried. No bid is necessary if able to purchase the culvert under State Contract.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to set up Public Hearing to be held in May for Mid-Hudson Cable Franchise Agreement. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft April 2015, draft January – April 2015 and final January – March 2015 financial statements. Carried.

Town Board members will review CYC Summer Program Written Plan and vote on it at the April Workshop.

Town Board is continuing to seek a grant writer for the Town.

General A bill, totaling \$18,263.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$854.64, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$36,314.63, were audited and ordered paid from their account.

Water District A bills, totaling \$5,241.89, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no escrow account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Town Clerk: _____