

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

February 12, 2015

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 7:00 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

The meeting began after the Pledge of Allegiance with a moment of silence honoring Nancy Brousseau, a great educator and active long-time resident of Philmont.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to accept minutes of the previous Regular Monthly Meeting & Organizational Meeting of January 8, 2015, as well as the Monthly Workshop Meeting of January 26, 2015. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Was not present due to being out managing the inclement weather that kept him out on plow runs all day, and is attempting to sleep.

Dog Control Officer's Report for January 2015 received and on file in the Town Office for review.

There were no **Committee Reports**.

Correspondence

Including but not limited to:

- Town of Greenport RE: Water Rate Change
- Robert Preusser, Re: Columbia County Environmental Council open seat
- Crawford & Associates FOIL request, Re: Former Claverack School
- Various Communications from the PSC, Re: Proposed Powerline Project
- Applications from NextEra Energy Transmission & North American Transmission
- Columbia Greene Humane Society, RE: CGHS proposed recommendations regarding the current Dog License procedures.

- National Grid & NYSEG Re: Eligibility requirements for Residential Agricultural Discount program additions.
- New York State PSC Re: Reforming the Energy Vision proceedings
- 4H Youth Connection February Newsletter
- Cornell Cooperative Extension 2015 Farm Income Tax School.
- North American Transmission, Re: February 16, 2015 informative meeting

Supervisor's Report

On the county level, there will be a full Board of Supervisor's meeting on February 23, 2015 to discuss the two final applicant bids for the sale of Pine Haven nursing home.

Also, the county is discussing consolidating water districts and expanding and upgrading the current Commercial Park water district. This expansion would occur along Route 9H north and south as well as west on Route 66 and encompassing the County Airport.

The county has also received grant money to fix bridges and roads. Looking into whether the Millbrook Bridge project would qualify. Also, in regards to this project, waiting to hear from Senator Marchione's office regarding grant funding. If this falls through, the Town may have to proceed with bonding the project to pay for costs.

Meeting on February 18th at the Highway Garage regarding the update and replacement of the county bridge located on Route 9H near Yates road. Will discuss bypass routes for emergency officials as well as traffic patterns.

Will attend the Village of Philmont workshop on February 25th with Councilman Keeler to discuss with the Trustees their Fire Department.

Received a phone call from National Grid regarding the proposed Power line Upgrade project and will look into setting up a meeting with them.

Councilwoman Cashen noted that representatives from the Friends and Families of Claverack & Livingston as well as herself already met with National Grid. This was a very informative and positive meeting. It was noted that there are 6 options to the National Grid plan, one of which will impact the residents of Claverack. She also informed the Board that National Grid will start going door to door to inform the abutters of the project their proposals. Councilwoman Cashen reminded the Board that the PSC will be holding a meeting in June to discuss the necessity of the project and advised waiting for the conclusions of that meeting before proceeding with more individual meetings.

Proposed changing the February workshop from Monday, February 23rd to Thursday, February 26th due to the Special Board of Supervisor's meeting regarding Pine Haven. This was agreed upon and will be noticed by the Town Clerk.

Received notification that the current owner of the Ockawamick School is interested in purchasing the Town owned 2 acres that abut the property. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained the process necessary to sell this land.

End of Report.

Town Board Members' Reports

Councilman Hook – Spoke with a resident regarding expanding Mid-Hudson Cable to his property. Informed him that he will need a petition of other households to help.

Checked in with the Highway department and the Town Courts.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attending meeting with National Grid representatives regarding the proposed Power Line upgrade project. Also, worked on applying for Intervenor Funding for the Town of Claverack.

Reviewed amendments to the Zoning laws with Attorney Fitzsimmons. The next step is getting Zoning and Planning Board Chair input and then proceeding to full input by the Boards.

Attorney Fitzsimmons noted that there are a couple things highlighted by the Building inspectors that need to be included in these changes as well as the result of the Economic Development Committee proposal that is being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Also, continued to work on the research regarding the Old Claverack School bell ownership. Asked Attorney Fitzsimmons to draft a letter to the Hudson City School district highlighting the Bell's importance to the Town of Claverack.

Finally, continued to work with the Town Office and the webmaster to update the Town's website.

Councilman Keeler – Working on coordinating with the Claverack Fire Departments as well as representatives from EMS to meet with each other and Town Board sometime in March.

Attended the Economic Development Committee meeting with Councilman Gerlach. Looking to seek grants. Councilman Gerlach noted that the Town needs to be targeted with what we choose to go after regarding Grant funds. Working on getting a 3rd Grant writer quote to proceed.

Supervisor Weigelt inquired where the Economic Development Committee stands regarding their proposed traffic circle in the Hamlet of Claverack.

Councilman Gerlach - responded they would like to hold a public hearing this spring. Looking for an independent person to present the two proposals without bias.

End of Reports.

Resolution by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve Park Fee rate increase. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve Building Fee rate increase. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that this increase is supposed to help cover the Town's expenses in the Building Department.

Resolution by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to approve Planning and Zoning Board Fee rate increase. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained this was intended to make the Town of Claverack more in line with other towns.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept Financial Statements.
Motion Carried.

In other business the Town Board will work on nominating 2 members to the Columbia County Office of the Aging Advisory Committee.

Meeting open to the Public – No public comments.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Weigelt closed the public comments and Councilman Gerlach motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss finances at 8 p.m., seconded by Councilman Hook.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to close the Executive Session at 8:30 p.m.

General A bills, totaling \$18,089.65, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1982.33, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$31,366.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$7,019.81, 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 Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____