

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

Regular Monthly Meeting

March 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.,

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
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways

Absent: Mary J. Hoose Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to accept minutes of the previous Regular Monthly Meeting of February 12, 2015, as well as the Monthly Workshop Meeting of February 26, 2015. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont –In February trucks were out 22 of the 28 days dealing with either storms or drift. The highway used 1192 tons of sand, 282 tons of salt. They cold patched in all zones. Unfroze culverts and serviced equipment.

Supervisor Weigelt inquired if this was an overly bad winter to which the Superintendent replied that February was busy. He was then asked if they were over-budget for the winter. Superintendent Lamont will not know if they have gone over budget until April. The salt shed is half full so it will be hard to say until winter is actually over.

Peter Reiss commented that compared to the Taconic State Parkway and New York State Thruway our local town roads are in really good shape.

Supervisor Weigelt commended the Highway staff for doing a good job in such a cold winter.

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

There were no **Committee Reports**.

Correspondence

Including but not limited to:

- Julie Kinne, Re: Pine Haven
- Donald MacCormack, Re: Bank of Greene County Services
- Claverack Seniors, Thanking the Town Board for funding their group.
- Choose Columbia, Re: Hudson Among “Best Places for Small Business in the Northeast”
- COARC Circle, Re: Funding increase for Pre-Schools
- Marshall & Sterling Insurance regarding their services
- PSC re: Various Public Filings regarding the Proposed power line upgrade project
- Friends and Families of Claverack and Livingston, Re: Public input needed

Supervisor’s Report

On a county level the Board of Supervisors voted to sell Pine Haven. Supervisor Weigelt explained that this is the best thing for Pine Haven at this time. The company making the purchase is well known with a five star rating. They currently own nursing homes in Catskill and Massachusetts. The company has a reputation of taking care of workers and will upgrade the facility. They plan to put 2.5 million dollars into the facility right away and bring it back up to full staff. Supervisor Weigelt reflected that the county had to do something, they needed to make a decision. There are other counties that did not make the decision to sell and they were forced to close their facilities within a year.

Councilwoman Cashen asked about the changeover remarking that they claimed it would be 6 months. Attorney Fitzsimmons answered that there will be a temporary administration, they are going to begin recruiting new patients. He also remarked that this company was Union friendly and that many of these plans can be implemented before it is technically sold.

Supervisor Weigelt moved onto Town matters proposing at the next Town Board Workshop a comprehensive meeting regarding what Industries are eligible in our Industrial and commercial zones based on our Zoning tables. This includes the Wellhead Protection Overlay. Supervisor Weigelt would like to invite the Town Attorney, Engineer, building inspector as well as Planning and Zoning Board Chairs to really have a well-informed conversation.

Councilman Gerlach echoed that this was a great idea but would also like to plan a tour of the area to really understand which parcels are which. Supervisor Weigelt agreed and also noted that maps are being made of the area for the discussion.

Councilwoman Cashen noted that we have a commercial zone in an area of a lot of water. Supervisor Weigelt acknowledged this noting that the County is looking into this water source as well. Supervisor Weigelt also noted that this review was not being done to support one particular business concern but to see what all the options are for all businesses.

A discussion then arose regarding the current status of the Ginsburg’s lawsuits and Article 78 hearings.

Michael Brandon asked if there was any news regarding the Recycling plant in the commerce park? Councilman Hook answered that they will do agricultural bedding using bi-product from paper mills for cow bedding a great use for Columbia County customers. He also noted that there is an empty building in the park that is currently being used to train State Police Dogs.

End of Report.

Town Board Members' Reports

Councilman Hook – Took S&F Technologies on a tour of the Town Office, Town Court/Hall and Highway Garage to assess our current security systems.

Councilman Keeler inquired as to the status of the Town's former security company to which was replied that they are now defunct.

Councilman Hook put forth a motion to go forward with S&F to which a discussion of funds began. It was decided to ask the Town Bookkeeper about fund availability for this project.

Motion to go forward with S&F Technologies to assess and inspect the Town of Claverack current security systems contingent upon funding to be determined at the next Town board workshop was put forth by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach. Carried.

Is working on potential update to the recently approved PB/ZBA fee schedule.

Councilwoman Cashen – Met with North American Transmission regarding the proposed Powerline upgrade project. Worked on gaining intervenor funding. Prior to the meeting, spoke with Attorney Dan Duthie regarding the Town of Claverack's award of \$21,000.00 of intervenor funds. It was noted that this does not include funding for mailings. It was explained that these funds are provided by the vendors and not the state tax payers. She also noted that the public comments period has been extended from March 30th to April 15th. There have been some very good comments submitted by residents.

Attended the Planning Board meeting where they worked on finalizing their recommendations of the Economic Development Committee's proposed zoning law changes.

Worked with Town Attorney to finalize letter sent to Hudson City School District regarding the bell located at the Claverack School.

Reviewed draft update of zoning law from the Town Attorney that re-codified and incorporated new laws and revisions, forwarded this onto the Planning Board Chair and Building inspector for review and input.

Attended the Board of Supervisor meeting for the sale of Pine Haven.

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

Councilman Keeler – Attended the Village of Philmont Trustee workshop at the end of February to discuss the Philmont Fire Department as they are the governing body. Still has not connected with the Churchtown Fire Department to meet with them. Is finalizing organizing a comprehensive Claverack Fire Departments meeting to take place next month.

Councilman Gerlach - Inquired about the status of the Park insurance discussion. Councilwoman Cashen noted that the Deputy Clerk was putting together exactly what questions we had for our insurance carrier. Attorney Fitzsimmons suggested the possibility of a waiver for smaller groups.
End of Reports.

Supervisor Weigelt commented that he spoke with Philmont Police regarding patrolling the Town Park. Attorney Fitzsimmons noted we will need an inter-municipal agreement for this.

A reminder that the Ockawamick Reunion is being held on May 30th. There is the potential of 400-600 people attending.

A discussion occurred regarding the 2 acre parcel the Town now owns adjacent to the old Ockawamick school and the potential to sell it and what those steps might be. Attorney Fitzsimmons suggested asking Assessor Charles Brewer for the assessment value and followed that there will need to be a public bidding process.

Motion by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilman Keeler to begin the process required to sell the 2 acre parcel.

Resolution to approve an 8 hour work day for the Highway Department for NYS Retirement Reporting purposes was put forth by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler. Carried.

Councilwoman Cashen questioned what happens when the Highway works a 4 day 10 hour week. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that there is no conflict. It is a technicality that this resolution will address.

Resolution to approve inter municipal agreement with Columbia County was put forth by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried.

Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that this was approved at a county level and is for insurance and worker's compensation purposes. The Town is pre-authorized to help or give help when necessary.

Resolution to update the Churchtown LOSAP Investment Policy Statement. Attorney Fitzsimmons suggested we confer with the Churchtown Fire Company prior to passing this resolution based upon the underperformance of this retirement fund.

Motion to approve change in policy contingent on approval from the Churchtown Fire Company was put forth by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook. Carried.

Highway Superintendent LaMont inquired about the status of the Millbrook Bridge funding. Supervisor Weigelt answered that we have still not heard back from Senator Marchione's office and may need to look into bonding this project. Discussion about this process ensued. Superintendent LaMont noted that this project needs to start the bidding process next month in order to work within the timeframe set forth by the DEC.

Nicon Zasorin noted that there needs to be an ordering lead time for the Culvert necessary for the project. Mr. LaMont answered that we need to make sure we have the funding first.

Meeting open to the Public – No public comments.

There being no further questions or comments, Supervisor Weigelt closed the public comments.

General A bills, totaling \$17,506.72, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,999.78, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$49,179.95, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,427.38, 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 Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Deputy Town Clerk: _____