

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

October 08, 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 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
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Brian Keeler	Councilman
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Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of September 10, 2015. Carried

Report of Highway Superintendent – Louis LaMont – Working on Snyderstown Road ditching and changing culvert pipes. Blacktopping culvert cuts in all zones.

Department worked with Village of Philmont on the demolition of their old Highway Garage.

Department is hauling sand for upcoming winter season.

Received extension for Millbrook Bridge project from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

Committee Reports

Historic Advisory Committee – Jeane La Porta read report, which included the following:

1. Have requested estimate for parts of wood planking and stringers from Meltz Lumber – estimate not ready. When complete, will be used for raising necessary funds to get bridge cleaned up and open for pedestrians.
2. Questioned where the bicentennial oak tree trunk at Meltz's was. The tree was located at Rte. #217 near the C O A R C facility and had been taken. It is in drying storage and will let

her know when it will be ready for use. Ideas were to place bench at Town Park or possibly at entrance to Shaw Bridge. Several other options were also to be considered.

3. Application for historic marker for Shaw Bridge submitted to the "William G. Pomeroy Foundation". Acknowledgement received and approval expected in near future.
4. Some interest shown from community to start up the Claverack Historical Society. Will see if there is enough to proceed with an initial meeting.
5. Annual 4th district meeting of the Association of Public Historians of New York State held at the Parsonage in Germantown, New York on September 19, 2015. Historian and Bob LaPorta attended. Two major topics covered – Protection of Town records and care and protection of cemetery stones.

There were no other Committee Reports.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Henry Neale – E-mail – Re: Tax exempt status for Claverack Historic Preservation Advisory Committee.

Laberge Group – Re: Planning for 2016 and beyond.

Peter L. Klausner – Re: County Rte. #9 – Requesting lower speed limit – also had petitions.

Community Rescue Squad – Meeting October 13, 2015.

NYS Public Service Commission – Re: Information on several topics.

Tony Hill – Re: Meeting October 08, 2015 with Board of Directors of Churchtown Fire Company.

Kenneth Flood – Draft Report on consolidation of water district service feasibility study.

Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company – Endorsement of Bill Hunt for Columbia County Car #1.

Village of Philmont – Thank you for highway department help.

Columbia County Planning @ Economic Development – Re: Transportation for residents in Philmont update.

Grant Langdon – E-mail – Requesting apology from Columbia County.

NYS Department of Transportation – Re: Statewide GIS Public Roads Network Project.

NYS Department of Transportation – Re: Local Highway Inventory update.

NYS Department of Public Service – Re: Energy Affordability for Low-Income Utility Customers.

Article on new Transmission Lines on Hudson Valley.

Supervisor's Report

Going forward with Millbrook Bridge project. Did not receive grant for project, but hope to receive \$150,000.00 in 2016 for projects

Met with West Ghent and Churchtown Fire Companies – are looking into options for mutual aid response in Commercial Zone at Rtes. 9-H /#66 in the West Ghent Fire District where there are a number of commercial establishments.

Received notification that the Board of Supervisors will present the request for bus service to the shopping centers in Greenport from the Village of Philmont to the Transportation Committee for approval and would be included in next year's budget. Letter received was read by Supervisor Weigelt.

Read thank-you letter from Village of Philmont for assistance in taking down old highway garage. This can be added as part of shared services.

Board Members' Reports

Councilman Gerlach – Working with other Board members on 2016 Budget – difficult with tax cap.

Supervisor Weigelt stated cap went from 2% in 2015 to .73% for 2016.

Went to Revitalization meeting at Columbia Greene Community College. Will be requesting a letter of support from the Town.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Planning Board Meeting as liaison for the Town Board. Worked with Attorney Fitzsimmons to finalize the minor changes in zoning law for approval by Town Board.

Researched laws relating to AirBnB properties under Town Zoning Law and spoke with Planning Board chairman Brian Goodrich, Building Inspector Stanley Koloski and Attorney Fitzsimmons. Drafted communication to be sent to property owners involved.

Discussed with attorney representing Town on the status of issues relating to the expansion of the power lines. Participated as Town representative on conference call with the Coalition of Towns and organizations against the expansion.

Attended Special Meetings of the Town Board regarding 2016 Budget.

Councilman Hook – Attending Special Meetings on 2016 Budget. Met with Building Inspector and Assessors' Office personnel.

Went to Churchtown Fire Company meeting with representatives from LOSAP. Meeting had been cancelled, but was not notified.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that the Town is working diligently on shared services, as is being promoted by the State.

He also thanked the Board members and bookkeeper, Michele Fuchs, for the time and effort they have been putting in to finalize the 2016 budget. The tax cap went from 2% in 2015 to .73% in 2016, making this a very difficult challenge.

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

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

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to set Public Hearing for discussion on 2016 Budget for Thursday, November 12, 2015, 6:45 p.m. prior to Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for deposit of unclaimed bid checks for Millbrook Bridge project. Carried.

Resolution by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for deposit of unclaimed Planning/Zoning Board sign deposits. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to set Special Workshops for working on the 2016 Budget for Thursday, October 15, 2015 and Monday, October 26, 2015, prior to Regular Monthly Workshop. These special meetings will be held at the Town Office Building, 91 Church Street, Mellenville, New York at 5:30 p.m. Carried.

After explanation by Attorney Fitzsimmons. Motion by Supervisor Weigelt, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen for resolution to declare lead agency and distribute notice of intent – Re: Zoning Law updates of Local Law #3 of 2015. Carried

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Supervisor Weigelt to set Public Hearing for Local Law #3 of 2015, Amending and Re-codifying the Zoning Law of the Town of Claverack, for Thursday, November 12, 2015, 7:00p.m., prior to Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried. **“Mike” Brandon** requested that when approved that each judge receive a copy of the Zoning Law.

After discussion on proposed lease-option agreement by Verizon, who want option and lease agreement for use of Town of Claverack water tower for installation of antenna, motion made by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Gerlach to approve this, pending Planning Board approval. . Consideration had been given for a new tower near the A.B. Shaw Firehouse. The proceeds are to be split with Mr. Koskey, based on deed agreement from years ago. The option will be valid for one year and Verizon is not given exclusive rights to the tower. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

A representative for the Newsome property - Why was this property on Rte. #23 singled out for AirBnB? Explained by **Councilwoman Cashen** explained that there are a small number of these establishments listed on various AirBnB-type websites within the Town and the Building Department will be sending out letters as these establishments will have to go through the Planning Board and a site plan review per the zoning code for Bed & Breakfasts, which are owner occupied.

Ian Nitschke – Re: Shaw Bridge – Re: Getting rid of vegetation on bridge. Per **Supervisor Weigelt**, before this can be done, engineers will need to check the structure over for safety assurance.

Re: Daffodil Project update – Next year is 300th anniversary of Dutch Reformed Church. Will be planting tulips this weekend for next year.

Re: Millbrook Bridge Project – Saw cleaning up had been done, but bridge is still there. Per **Highway Superintendent LaMont**, the bridge will be taken down next week.

“Mike” Brandon - Re: Controversy last month about Old Barrington Road. Thanked **Highway Superintendent LaMont** for the good job as he had to travel over it since then and it was a great improvement.

After request by **Highway Superintendent LaMont**, motion by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen, to purchase tractor and mower deck for Town Park under State Contract. This

is also going to be used by the Village of Philmont and they will be equipping it with a cab cover at their expense. There will be a \$5,000.00 trade-in allowance. Carried. Town Clerk will write letter.

Attorney Fitzsimmons requested and Executive Session to discuss court conference. Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to go into Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. for this purpose. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Gerlach, seconded by Councilman Hook to go out of Executive Session at 8:15. Carried.

General A bills, totaling \$12,634. Were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,291.28, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$86,175.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$5,719.40, 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 Hook, seconded by Councilman Gerlach, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Gerlach: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Town Clerk: _____

