

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 15, 2017

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. This meeting was rescheduled from February 8th, which was cancelled due to weather conditions. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Clifford Weigelt, who requested a moment of silence in memory of Lynette Ruffin, an employee of the Claverack Post Office, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Clifford Weigelt	Supervisor
Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of January 12, 2017. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont - Department has worked 13 snow and ice storms with men putting in long hours and doing a great job.

Men have rebuilt roller, getting ready for Spring.

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

Committee Reports

None received in Town Office

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Association of Towns – Re: NYS Governor Cuomo's new proposals
Rip Van Winkle Amateur Radio Society, Inc. – Re: Town Park Fee waiver
NYS Public Service Commission – Re: Alternating Current Transmission Upgrades

Laberge Group – Re: Potential Grant funding available

Association of Towns – Re: Continued efforts against the Governor’s new proposed efficiency plans

Supervisor’s Report

On the County level. Discussion on the need to set up schedule for judges. Difficult to find judges on weekends when needed. Also possibility of a lower age limit to go to jail.

Related that a representative from New York Citizens’ Preparedness, talking on disasters that could happen in the County, will come to Towns if they would like them to. Will be open to public. Supervisor Weigelt will get information from attending a meeting and make it available.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Met with healthcare representative from Nicholas Marino & Company to see how the healthcare deductible works and what paperwork is required for quick reimbursement. Then on January 20th, meeting held at Town Garage for employees regarding healthcare reimbursements. Councilman Hook and bookkeeper, Sue Meddoff were also there to answer questions.

Website Committee met on January 19th to review proposals received. Two suppliers were selected to be interviewed, Trevellyn Biz and Technology 4 All.

Received e-mail from David Fingar, regarding Mid-Hudson’s progress on Old Barrington Road and Route #23. Construction has been completed and sales and customer installations have begun. Mid-Hudson has also applied for additional funding in the Phase 1 of the Governor’s Broadband initiative. Part of this is supposed to be for additional work to be done in Claverack. They will not know until the awards are announced.

Met with Building Inspector to go over some unanswered issues.

Met on January 30th with Trevellyn Biz to discuss their proposal. They are our present web provider and on February 1st met with Technology 4 All to discuss their proposal.

Attended Open House at Rockefeller Farm in Churchtown.

Attended Planning Board Meeting as liaison from Town Board. Three new members were sworn in that evening. Also, training is going to be set up for Planning Board members on a Saturday in April by Building Inspector Jay Trapp. The exact date has not yet been determined but the time will be from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Planning Board and ZBA members are required to receive at least 4 hours of training annually.

Met with Rich Nesbitt from Johnny Walker Insurance regarding Town Insurance renewal.

Town Board members have been invited to tour Churchtown Fire Company facility.

Councilman Keeler – Spoke on AED’s. Brennan Keeler is set to do training. Will have to notify him to set up classes.

Attended Planning Board meeting. Coyote Flaco, a local restaurant business is seeking to move to the former Claverack Food Market building,,. was one of those on the agenda.

Attended Connect Columbia meeting, regarding Broadband. Suggested a survey on the Town website to try and promote this might be a good idea.

Is reviewing the Handbook and will be making suggestions for updates.

Churchtown Fire Company will have a “meet and greet” meeting tomorrow evening for Town Board members to show them facilities and equipment.

Councilwoman Cashen – Followed up with Mid-Hudson Cable officials regarding status of expansion of services in the Town. Officials reported that expansion area has been completed.

Getting information from Regional Food Bank regarding State program to possibly provide free lunches to youths participating in the Summer Youth Program.

Met with Building Inspector and bookkeeper to discuss grant proposal for improvements at the Town Park and also sidewalks and water to the Park.

Followed-up with Verizon Wireless officials on lease payments to Town . Within 90 days, Town should receive payment from May 2015 to the present.

Participated in conference calls with coalition members on power line proposal.

Participated in meetings with vendors who responded to RFP for new Town website.

Worked with present webmaster to update website on several items related to public hearings, updates and other items.

Attended Planning Board meeting.

Attended Churchtown Dairy Open House and Churchtown Fire Department Game Dinner.

Councilman Hook – Attended Claverack Senior Citizens’ Meeting and swore in new officers.

Attended monthly Planning Board Meeting.

Attended Churchtown Dairy Farm open house.

Discussed furnace problems at the Town Hall/Court Building with Valley Oil. Quoted \$33,465.00 for new furnace.

End of reports.

Discussion on Town Insurance. Per Attorney Fitzsimmons, no formal bidding qualifications necessary.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept draft January – December 2016 and draft January 2017 financial statements. Carried.

After discussion of request received from Rip Van Winkle Amateur Ham Radio Society, motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to grant relief from charges for use of the Town Park facilities for their annual overnight program. Their gathering is open to the public and will give insight to what work they do and would do in case of a disaster. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – Would like to get Shaw Bridge contract in-house by March 1st. Supervisor Weigelt said that the Town needs all the information he has relative to this project. Information is going to him and not to the Town.

Charles Vieni - Questioned Board on intersection of Rtes. 9-H and 23. Response was that letter was sent to the State and awaiting response.

Also questioned about Building Committee and was told that it has been inactive recently, but will be getting together again in the near future to discuss possibilities for a Town building or expansion of Town facilities. At the present time, a new handicap accessible bathroom facility is going to be installed.

Michael Brandon – Disputes the Town Hall/Court building report received from the Town engineers. Discussion followed.

General A bills, totaling \$20,054.58, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$359.62, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$30,280.44, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$38.57, 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 Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Keeler, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____