

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

January 12, 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. Meeting opened at 7:15 p.m. by Supervisor William Weigelt, with a moment of silence in memory of Joseph Singleton, who had been a member of the Planning Board, 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 Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of December 08, 2016 and 2017 Organizational Meeting of January 03, 2017. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has worked 12 snow/ice events. Have been patching on dirt and blacktop roads and working on equipment for spring season.

All fixtures for redo the bathroom in the Town Hall/Court Building have been ordered. The two bathrooms will be redone into one handicap bathroom.

Dog Control Report for December received and on file in Town Office for review.

Committee Reports

No reports received in Town Office.

Correspondence

Including, but not limited to:

Office of NYS Comptroller – 2017 Governmental Accounting Class Schedule

USDA – Rural Utilities Services – Rural Broadband Access Loans and Loan Guarantees Program
Jeane LaPorta – Town Historian – Annual Report to the State
Reg Conklin – Dog Control Officer’s Report for December 2016
Laberger Group – 2017 Grant Needs Survey
Col. County Real Property – Board of Assessment Review – Neil Howard reappointment
Jim Miller – e-mail – Lawn damage from snow plow during storm
NYMIR – Insurance information
Andrew Campanella – President – National School Choice Week – January 22nd – 28th
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Matching grants of \$170,000 for Shaw Bridge Restoration and \$25,000 for Claverack Creek Historic Sites and Public Waterfront Access Study
Information on 2017 Annual Meeting for training and certification February 19th – 22nd, 2017
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area 2017 Heritage Development Grants information
Kathleen Marchione, State Senator, 43rd District – Meeting January 27th – Columbia County Office Building – To learn specific concerns and learn more about the important issues in municipalities in Columbia County
NYS Local and State Retirement System – Dates and Deadlines and other retirement information
Verizon – Re: Water tower agreement
Taconic Hills Central School District – Elementary School D. A. R. E. annual graduation – 01/20/2017
Combined Life Insurance Company of New York – Re: Information on combined insurance

Supervisor’s Report

The by-pass used by Hildebrandt’s during the bridge replacement on Rte. 9-H is no longer used. Abutments were left in case there is future use for them on the bridge.

Gave update on Fish And Game Road County Project – This is a two-year project. Will be surveying and talking with land owners – road will be widened but staying within boundaries. The project will be from Damita Drive to State Rte. #217 and County is starting process now.

\$2 million has been earmarked by the State for Rails to Trails.

County is looking to organize departments under one roof- (401 State Street offices, Highway Department, etc.) This is just in the talking stage at the present time.

Kathy Marchione will have an open public meeting on heroin and opium addictions, a very serious problem at the present time.

Letter sent on Rte. #9-H and Rte. #23, regarding upgrade.

Emergency Preparedness Plan for Town has been updated and is Town Office.

Town Board Member Reports

Councilwoman Lee – Attended ZBA Meeting on December 14, 2016.

Met with Hudson Valley HR Group with Councilman Hook, Town Bookkeeper Sue Meddoff, Account Representative Mary Melino and Lisa Gill from the accounting firm.

Met with S&F Communications at the Town Building, regarding telephone update on December 16th.

Will be reviewing website proposals submitted by several website companies.

Has been working with the Economic Development Committee on a couple of projects that are not able to be discussed at the present time. Full report will be given at a later date.

Spoke with Dave Fingar regarding Mid-Hudson's progress on Old Barrington Road and State Rte. #23. He stated things were moving along quickly and had some good news, but rather than speculate to call him in a few days.

Called Mr. Fingar back today, January 12, and he reported they had been on the job for two weeks without interruptions and made very good progress. All fiber is hanging in the air as of yesterday. As of Monday, January 16th almost all fiber will be spliced and ready. Tuesday, the priority will be on getting service to approximately 8 customers. Once they are served, the focus will be on sales/marketing. Mr. Fingar did add this type of project should take one mile per week with a crew of five. The seven miles has taken eight months, due to circumstances beyond their control.

Spoke with health care insurance broker regarding employee deductible reimbursement. Along with Councilman Hook, will be meeting with staff to answer questions. Also, health care renewal is in August and broker will be meeting with committee in May.

Town liability insurance will be coming up in April. In next few weeks, Town will be in contact with the insurance broker regarding request for proposals.

Councilman Keeler- Regarding AEDs, has spoken with Josh Loeffler and Terry Guntert. Claverack's Senior Group purchased one and the Town purchased the other. One will be placed in the Town Hall and the other at a place to be decided in the Town Park. Found out about the paperwork that has to be completed. We do not have information on training at the present time.

Councilwoman Cashen – Attended Planning Board meeting as liaison from Town Board and conducted interviews with Councilman Hook for Planning Board vacancies.

Followed-up with Mid-Hudson officials regarding status of the expansion services in the Town. Work on laying the new cable lines was to be completed by the Christmas holidays, but not completed yet. Upon request, provided officials with a list of residents that had expressed interest in the service.

Discussed power line proposal with coalition members and reiterated Town's support along with the group that transmission line expansion alternatives should be explored further and would be more cost effective for ratepayers.

Reviewed proposals received in response to the RFP for the Town website.

Worked with webmaster to update Town website on public hearings and water district hydrant flushing.

Councilman Hook – Met with State Police representative after complaints received from residents on Stonemill Road, to request their assistance in curbing the speeding on that road.

Attended Planning Board Meeting.

Worked with S&F Communications with new phone service.

Worked with Dog Control Officer, Reg Conklin, on dog control issues.

Had discussions with new bookkeeper and Building Inspector to see how things were progressing and if there were issues to be resolved.

End of reports.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to reappoint Neil Howard to the Board of Assessment Review (BAR), effective October 01, 2016. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve West Ghent Fire District contract thru December 31, 2017. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to approve Churchtown Fire District contract thru December 31, 2017. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to approve Financial Statements. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Lee, for resolution to approve purchase of a pickup truck under State bid and also new plow system for the truck. Price of truck is not to exceed \$33,000, which includes a trade-in of \$17,000, plus the purchase of plow, for a price not to exceed \$6,500. Carried

Other Business

Reg Conklin, Dog Control Officer, spoke regarding hours available. They are Monday – Saturday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and closed on Sunday.

Supervisor Weigelt reported that regarding the Churchtown and A.B. Shaw Fire District boundaries, the Town is to take charge since the two companies could not reach an agreement between themselves. Because two Councilmen have to recuse themselves from the project, it will be turned over to the Town Attorney for review and decision.

Ian Solomon – Spokesperson for Farmers and Friends of Claverack – Gave update information on proposed power lines, which would affect parts of the Town. Was more active 2013 – 2015. Was a bit dormant in 2016. In 2015 the Public Service Commission said project should move ahead. The cost for the outlay is \$2 billion dollar and revenue about \$200 million. Hudson Valley and south will be paying most. Part B will probably be starting out in the Fall of this year.

Meeting opened to public:

A representative from the West Ghent Fire Company questioned why the decrease in a 2% reimbursement received each year, that can only be used for certain projects. In 2015 they received \$3,297.45 and then in 2016 received only \$1,472.67. Their contract amount of \$44,000.00 remained the same for both years. Town will look into this, but is not involved. This comes from the Fire District Insurance carrier and will try and find out how they come up with the amounts.

General A bills, totaling \$10,739.07, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,417.63, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$43,236.76, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$578.97, 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 Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Carried.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____

Councilman Hook: _____

Councilman Keeler: _____

Councilwoman Lee: _____

Town Clerk: _____

