

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**March 09, 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 called to order 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
Stephen Hook	Councilman
Brian Keeler	Councilman
Maryanne Lee	Councilwoman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Jr., Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilman Keeler to accept minutes of previous meeting of February 15, 2017. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Ditching done on Dunbar and Christman Roads.

Redecked and painted trailer used to move equipment. Worked on hopper of truck sweeper, which was necessary because of age and rust and installed a new blower wheel.

Did cold-patching in all zones and spread gravel on some soft spots on dirt roads.

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

**Committee Reports**

None received in Town Office.

**Correspondence**

Including, but not limited to:

Columbia County Office of the Aging: Re: Park Fee waiver request  
Viridian – Re: Energy Supply Rate

Columbia Land Conservancy – Re: Renewal Application for Real Property Tax Exemptions  
Town of Taghkanic – Re: Churchtown LOSAP reallocation  
Columbia County Council on the Arts – Re: Announcement of their closing  
Cornell Local Roads Program  
Lothrop Associates – Repair and Restoration  
Senator Kathleen Marchione – 2016 Report of the New York State Senate, Standing Committee  
on Local Government  
Guterman Shallo & Alford – Re: Town of Hillsdale Local Law #1 – 2017  
Jeane LaPorta – Re: Successful Award of CCHS “Re-Grant”.  
Choose Columbia – Re: Broadband Announcement  
Lauren Jones – Re: Town Hall Meetings

### Supervisor’s Report

County Board passed increases in Veteran’s Exemptions and Disabilities.

Continued planning for sewer and sewer updates going up Route #66 to bring water and sewer to Commerce Park, including 3 pump stations. Negative Declaration on SEQRA. Work stated to begin in 2018. Water lines will not be run now – possibility being investigated for future. Dutch Village Mobile Home Park has new owners and will be able to tie in with the water lines going to the park.

Bruce Hotaling, a veteran from Hudson will be honored in March in the Honor a Vet Program.

Spoke with Trish Gabriel at NYDEC regarding an old gravel mine on County Route #33 (Martindale Road). It is a permitted gravel mine from many years ago and should have been reclaimed, but never has been.

**Councilwoman Lee** – On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, met with Building Inspector, Jay Trapp, regarding upcoming projects.

On March 6<sup>th</sup>, attended Planning Board Meeting.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, along with Councilwoman Cashen and Town Clerk, met with Carl Quinn of Technology 4 All, Inc. This was to discuss what steps are necessary to prepare for the new website. Recommended that Board review present website to make sure information is up-to-date. Discussed possibility of updating pictures and new calendar with meeting dates and community events. Is recommending the development of policies and procedures or content guidelines as the website is a powerful tool for communication with the people of the Town and the Town wants to avoid any conflict of interest issues, and there should be a privacy policy in place that states what information is collected when a user visits the site.

Town insurance renewal is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Agents have been notified that proposals must be received by March 13, 2017 and the agents have been invited to attend the March 27<sup>th</sup> workshop to go over their proposals and answer any questions.

Columbia County was among the top recipients for Governor Cuomo's Broadband Program Round 2/ David Fingar from Mid-Hudson Cable reported that in Round 2 they were awarded funding to build about 5 ¼ miles in the Snydertown Road area. He also stated that most, if not all, of the area not served will require funding beyond what has been offered. To move forward, Mid-Hudson is working with Columbia County through the CEDC to find a solution.

A workshop has been set up for Town Planning Board members by Building Inspector, James Trapp. The date is Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

**Councilman Keeler** - Columbia County was not included in Phase 3 of the Broadband Program.

Regarding the AED's, we will get the doctor's okay and Highway Department will install the boxes for them at the Town Court/Town Hall building and the Town Park. It was agreed to purchase another box for the Town Office Building to house the one in the Park when not in use there.

Attended monthly Planning Board Meeting and Connect Columbia regarding Broadband.

Going thru the Town Handbook and making updates and suggested that Town Attorney go over information before being approved.

**Councilwoman Cashen** – Followed up with Mid-Hudson Cablevision as to whether the Town of Claverack would benefit from Round 2 of the Broadband State Grant.

Followed up with Regional Food Bank regarding a state program that would provide free lunches to youth participants in the Summer Youth Program.

Participated in conference calls with coalition members on the power line proposal. Spoke with Supervisor Weigelt and signed on to coalition legal argument to regulators regarding review of the proposal.

Met with new website company officials with Councilwoman Lee and Town Clerk on upgrading Town website information.

Worked with present webmaster to update website with items related to announcements on homepage on shredding program, broadband survey, public hearing updates on the Assessor's page and various other items.

**Councilman Hook** - Met with plumber regarding problems with furnace at Town Hall/Town Court building. Holding pressure and would be okay until spring.

Attended monthly Planning Board Meeting and monthly ZBA Meeting.

Met with Town Dog Control Officer, Reggie Conklin.

Rode to different locations with Building Inspector, “Jay” Trapp, to check out different problems and inspections. One of the places was on Rte. #23, a former restaurant, where there is a possibility of a restaurant opening, which will be offering a dinner theatre also and would be affordable pricing.

End of reports.

**Supervisor Weigelt** thanked the Board members for all their hard work. They work on projects throughout the month, not just attend the Board meetings and he appreciates it very much. It makes his job easier as he also has County meetings and projects.

**Councilwoman Lee** reported on Lighting District 1, which she has been working on for some time. She gave a copy of the report to all Board members.

She identified all properties currently paying a lighting district tax and also did an inventory of all the street lights on roads within the lighting district 1 area which was confirmed by National Grid, and mapped the location of the lights and the properties paying taxes.

A National Grid representative said that adding lights would not be a problem. The cost of the light and Installation is covered by National Grid, but the electricity is charged to the Town and taxed to those who reside in the lighting district.

After speaking with The Town Attorney, it was learned that to be within a lighting district, a property does not need to have a light on the road. A property resident benefits if there is a light at the end of the road where it intersects with a highway or another road, which means that a complaint of not having a light on the road has no merit because there is a light at the end of the road.

A copy of the report is available at the Town Office for anyone who might be interested.

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

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to approve reduction of speed on the portion of Knapp Road in the Town of Claverack. Approved.

Motion by Councilwoman Lee, seconded by Councilman Hook for resolution to send yearly report to New York State Retirement System. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Hook, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to approve 2017 LOSAP sponsor approval. Carried

Motion by Councilman Keeler, seconded by Councilman Hook to approval waiver of Park Fee for Columbia County Office of the Aging. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Hook to appoint Judy Zink as representative to the Columbia County Office of the Aging/Senior Group. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilwoman Lee to appoint Robert Preusser as representative to Columbia County Environmental Management Council. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

**Library Representatives – Claverack and Philmont Libraries** – Gave handout of work being done with local schools, 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Up. Spoke on programs they will be offering to Town residents. There will also be a movie on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at the A.B. Shaw Firehouse with drawing of raffle prizes and enjoyment of treats. Also, every time you attend an event at either library, the names will be put in a raffle to win one of three prizes – 1<sup>st</sup> is a 4-book set of The People of Sparks, 2<sup>nd</sup> is the graphic novel City of Ember and 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the movie, City of Ember. Also, students that attend at least three of Claverack Library programs will receive a free book from the People of Sparks quartet.

**Nick Zasorin** – Explained his request for a boundary change from HB 1 to Hamlet Residential so that he will be able to build a house that would be handicap accessible.

**Stuart Newsome** – Regarding Air B & B – Why is his the only one who received a violation. There are 5 or 6 in the Town and he was the only one receiving a violation. **Supervisor Weigelt** said that they would discuss this at the next Monthly Workshop, which is held the last Monday of each month.

**Ian Nitschke** – Stated steps that need to be taken immediately on Shaw Bridge Grant. Sent e-mail to all Board members.

**Michael Brandon** – Gave handout to all Board members stating official requirements for Court facilities. Gave Court Clerk, Brenda Weigelt, credit for a lot of time spent gathering information.

**Discussion on boundary lines of Churchtown and A.B. Shaw Fire Districts** -Councilmen Keeler and Hook were excused from the discussion. Brief explanation given by Attorney Fitzsimmons. Churchtown carved out of A.B. Shaw boundaries in 1946. Need original founding documents.

General A bills, totaling \$12,028.91, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$2,688.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$35,273.61, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$1,000.80, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway D A 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 Hook, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Cashen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Hook: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Keeler: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilwoman Lee: \_\_\_\_\_

Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_