

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK**

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

**April 14, 2011**

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 7:20 p.m., immediately following the Public Hearing on Local Law #3 of 2011, by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence in honor of Martha Weigelt, mother of Councilman Clifford Weigelt, who passed away this afternoon, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town

Barrett Mack, Esq., of the law firm Fitzsimmons, Mack and Mills, represented the Town in the absence of Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq., Attorney for the Town.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston, to accept minutes of previous meeting of March 10, 2011. Carried.

**Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont** – Dirt roads being repaired due to problems from spring thaw. Cold patching in all zones. Repairing ditches that were washed out during March flooding. Ditching and installing culvert pipes on Lockwood Road.

Sweeping roads in all zones.

Removed two plow wings and sanders, getting ready for road work.

Snow fence has been taken down.

Marty back at work at the Park, cleaning and getting it set for upcoming season.

There was a problem with the softeners in the water plant – all repairs have been made and should be working sufficiently now.

End of Report

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

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Zoning Revision Committee – Chris. Post** – Scheduled to meet with all Boards on Saturday, April 30, 2011. Suggested use of draft copies until final changes have been made. Discussion followed. Decided draft should not be put on website until after Boards (Town, ZBA and Planning) have met and discussed.

Requested approval from Board to apply for a Greenway Communities Grant. This is necessary in order to proceed with the application. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve same. Carried.

Thanks to all who have worked so diligently on this project.

**Economic Development** – Read by Supervisor.

**Agricultural Committee** – No report – Next meeting April 28, 2011.

**Historic Preservation – Ian Stewart** – Given verbally to Supervisor by Mr. Stewart – Copy of draft grant application and information on same given by Ian Nitschke.

Requested approval from Board to apply for a grant sponsored by the Preservation League of New York State and the New York State Council on the Arts for project on Shaw Bridge. The amount requested is \$10,000.00. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve same. Carried.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Correspondence from Claverack Library.
2. Correspondence from NYSDOT – Re: “No Passing” zones on Rte. #23 from the 9 – H and Rte. #23 intersection past “new” A. B. Shaw Fire Company facilities.
3. Letters from those interested in the Board of Assessment Review (BAR) position(s).
4. Hazardous Waste Collection Day – June 04, 2011

### **TOWN BOARD REPORTS**

**Grants – Councilman Van Deusen** – Working on a grant for sidewalks, water and drainage from the Village to the Town Park.

**Mining – Councilman Van Deusen** – Have been meeting regularly. Overlay maps have been made.

**Traffic Safety – Councilman Van Deusen** – Letter written to Mr. Cotton.

**County – Supervisor Andrews** – WalMart plans a surprise. Will make special effort to attend meetings. Discussion on HR Deputy. Pine Haven sub-committee had informal meeting.

Census – Claverack less 380 residents, from 6,401 to 6,021. County gained 2.

**Philmont – Supervisor Andrews** – “Skip Speed” won election for Mayor. On May 7<sup>th</sup>, tag sale at Philmont Library.

**Finance – Supervisor Andrews** – AUD Report filed with the State this month.

Equity funds for Tri-Form complete.

B & A Trail – Trying to get County to open former B & A Railroad bed for pedestrian use.

Councilman Johnston questioned what has happened to alleviate the problem with the bridge underpass on County Rte. #11. This has been discussed many times in the past and is a big problem for Pretium Packaging.

Councilman Johnston also question what happens to the agreement the Town has with the County if the property is sold. The Town has a ten year option on two acres of land to use for whatever they decide. If nothing is done in the ten year period, the property reverts back to the County.

**RPF for Skateboard Park** – Three qualified bidders as per Nathan Chess. Working with original budget number – will know what prices are. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to authorize RFP to be sent out when complete and approved by Attorney and Engineers. Carried.

**Reval – Councilman Johnston** – Read report from Assessors’ Office – GAR has conducted approximately 350 informal hearings. Adjustments to the original calculations will be mailed as Change of Assessment Notices and will be sent later this month.

Grievance Day is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>. If additional time is needed, necessary arrangements will be made.

Year-long Reval process is winding down and Assessors’ Office has calmed down. Notification received today that Town Equalization Rate is now 100%.

**Buildings – Councilman Johnston** – Meeting with alarm service on Wednesday, checking all buildings and putting online in near future.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept \$184.00 grant from Historical Society. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston for resolution authorizing Court to apply for a \$3,860.49 grant from the Unified Court System.. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen for resolution to increase CHIPS \$95,000.00 to \$122,677.00 and increase budget by \$27,677. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept draft January – March 2011, Final January – February and Final January – December 2010 Financial Reports. Carried. Councilman Johnston thanked Michele Fuchs for all her hard work.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to leave Board of Assessment Review members at three (3) and not increase number to five (5) as discussed in Public Hearing and not adopt Local Law. Carried.

Short discussion on 284 Agreement between the Town Board and Superintendent of Highways.

Resolution regarding official workdays for members of N.Y.S. Retirement System was given to Attorney for wording. Tabled until next meeting.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Supervisor Andrews authorizing advertising for bids for transportation for the Summer Youth Program and Winter Ski Program. Carried.

**Water Resource Study Committee** – Met with Pat Scalera. Information given by Nathan Chess. Also met with Steven Winkley, who is proceeding with study. Requested approval of the following committee for assistance in this project – Nathan Chess, James Van Deusen, William First, Katie Smith and Jamie Preusser. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve same. Carried

**Elections** – Report given by Jason Natske and Virginia Martin, Commissioners of the Columbia County Board of Elections. Town has 3850 enrolled voters. Are proposing cutting number of districts from 6 to 4. Churchtown and the Mellenville Grange (Districts 2 and 3 would be cut and districts would be revamped. Stated new regulations and requirements have been set by the State. All will be settled and ready for November 2011 elections. Discussion and questions followed.

Meeting opened to public:

Town Justice Michael Brandon gave handouts from the Magistrates Associations.

Sal Cozzolino – P.O. Box numbers may have lowered census count in Town. Philmont and Claverack Post Offices will not deliver mail that does not have box numbers.

Bill Blaauw – Mobile home by bridge in Mellenville is “eye sore” as well as other places in the Town. Something should be done about this.

No further comments.

Invitation to Town Board received from American Legion Post #252, with line-up at 8:30 a.m. near American Legion Building and stepping off at 9:00 a.m. sharp.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$58,600.18, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$4,127.40, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA Fund bills, totaling \$2,777.74, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB Fund bills, totaling \$61,806.38, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

SW Water District bills, totaling \$1,614.48, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

B Escrow Account bills, totaling \$60.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

A meeting was held with the Mayor and Board of Trustees of the Village of Philmont regarding assessed values of Village owned property in the Town of Claverack. Want assessments brought down to where they were before the reval. Water and sewer are part of this. Also thought they could be totally exempted. Brought to their attention the fact that if this was to happen, the whole Town would have to absorb the change. They also feel that the burden of the reval has been put on the Village residents. Possible to do a partial exemption. Village will send letter requesting full exemption.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, meeting adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

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

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

Councilman Van Deusen: \_\_\_\_\_

Councilman Johnston: \_\_\_\_\_

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