

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

August 04, 2010

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Absent:

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq, Attorney for the Town

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of previous meeting of July 07, 2010. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Installed drainage system on Brookbound Lane with 490’ of pipe and 5 catch basins. Paved Duntz’s development, Van Wyck Lane and a strip on Patroon Street. Replaced a collapsed culvert pipe and a damaged spot on Roxbury Road. Installed a driveway pipe on Brookbound Lane and a catch basin and 40’ of pipe on Decker Road. Put in a culvert pipe on Catskill View. Mowing roadsides in all zones. Marty and Mario are keeping parks and Town Office Building lawn mowed and trimmed.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

Zoning Review Committee – Gretchen Stearns – Met twice during July, reviewing sections 16 thru 20 of the first draft of the revised zoning code.

Topics covered:

Regulation of wind turbines, timber harvesting and outside wood boilers. Guidance requested from consultant Nan Stolzenberg.

Site plan and special exception procedures discussed. Decided that the Building Inspector could be utilized more effectively at beginning of process, to guide applicants and make sure the appropriate materials for the site plan review were in order before making an appearance before the ZBA or Planning Board.

Also proposing a modified application procedure for simple projects as well as standard application process for more complicated ones. The Planning Board would determine which process was appropriate for each application at a preliminary “sketch plan” conference.

Next meeting planned for August 12th; have set up a meeting with the EAC for mid-August and will reschedule one with the AAC.

Agricultural Committee – Peter Reiss – Held meeting July 22nd. Chris Post gave presentation including stocking rates, proposal for animal husbandry within the hamlets and mobile slaughterhouses. Believe it advisable to review and discuss animal husbandry as a committee before responding. Availability of mobile slaughterhouses a critical issue for many farmers in area. Will contact Joan Snyder at Glynwood (and others) for more information as to how to proceed.

Ellen Juret-Epstein from Columbia Land Conservancy briefed Committee on how best to reach out to survey farms in the Town to create inventory of farms in the Town, including ideas on questionnaires (subject, distribution, contact, etc.), and identification of ways Town can help support farming and farmland protection.

Development of a Mission Statement for the Committee is a high priority as are steps to develop an Agricultural Protection Plan for the Town.

Youth/Recreation – Robert Preusser – Met twice in July. One was a regular meeting and the other to discuss a end-of-summer dance for the youth of the Town on August 20th. The dance has been cancelled for now.

Committee has compiled and is editing a directory of recreational opportunities throughout the Town. Was present at Philmont Community Day and set up informational table.

Mission statement and set of goals accepted by Committee.

Economic Development – Report received from John Lee – Meeting held on July 21, 2010. guest speakers were Ken Flood Commissioner , Columbia County Planning and Economic Development and Martha Lane, Business Development Specialist, Columbia Hudson Partnership.

Ken Flood gave review of his background in planning and economic development and available programs in Columbia county and New York State. His Office is not only there to attract new business, but also to assist existing businesses that need assistance in growing or expanding. Martha Lane discussed County Leadership Program and what is available to small startup businesses as well as small and medium sized businesses already in the County or looking to come here. Discussion followed with such topics as town planning and zoning, broadband.

Next meeting scheduled for August 18th at 6:30 p.m. with Gretchen Stearns and Chris Post from Zoning Review Committee as guest speaker.

Philmont – Supervisor Andrews – Philmont Community Day was held.

County – Supervisor Andrews – Architects hired for Pine Haven Home plans. Consultant hired to do assessment of Department of Social Services.

In September and November electronic machines will be used in place of lever machines. Representatives will be at Philmont Library Cultural Center from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. this Friday evening for anyone interested.

Skateboard Park – Councilman Johnston – Committee met to consider one bid received – Rejected bid as it was FAXed in and not a hard copy. Will revamp new specs with assistance of Attorney Fitzsimmons.

Website – David Graziano – Report read by Supervisor Andrews - Design is complete – redesigned to make more user friendly, easier to find information. Recommended changing domain name. Discussion followed and decision made to leave it as townofclaverack.com. Recommend setting up new committee for “communications”. Committee member, Chris Lastovicka will continue to update site for remainder of year, but committee recommends that Town get quotes for continued maintenance.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to have website “go live”. Carried.

Grant Committee – Councilman Van Deusen – Three members met. Discussed sidewalks and water from Philmont line on Church Street to Park, and riding/walking paths on the Webb Road and Van Wyck Lane bridges, which are closed to vehicle traffic. These are to be considered for next grant application.

Ongoing Business

Stream clean-up – Councilman Preusser – Need to take pictures and identify most serious problems. Councilman Weigelt stated that areas where homes and property are involved are most important. Consensus is to try and get Laura Sager to look over sites. Councilman Preusser and Superintendent of Highways LaMont will get together and make a decision on who to call.

Buildings – Councilman Johnston – Roof on Town Hall has got to be done – must be soon in order to be able to use Highway Department workers.

Alarm system papers filed. Making arrangements to set up training for those involved.

Air conditioning needs to be addressed in the near future. Many problems this season.

Highway – Councilman Weigelt – Decision on purchasing new truck should be made. Would be a larger truck, not single axle because of weight constraints. Would not have to use site at former Garage for salt and sand, which would cut out a \$15,000.00 line item as there would not be a need to rent a loader. Would be purchased under State contract. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve purchase, with a maximum limit of \$230,000.00. Discussion followed. Carried.

Three bids have been received by judges for carpet in the Town Hall/Court, which is covered under grant received:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------|
| 1. | Glen’s Carpet and Linoleum Sales and Service | \$3,076.44 |
| 2. | Alpine Flooring, Inc. | \$2,754.00 |
| 3. | Schrader Home Interiors, Inc. | \$4,130.84 |

Court’s recommendation is Glen’s Carpet and Linoleum Sales and Service.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept bid as recommended by Court personnel with contract to be set up by Attorney Fitzsimmons and authority to Supervisor Andrews to execute same. Remainder of Court grant will be used for furniture. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to close Van Wyck Lane, except for local and emergency traffic, on Saturday, August 28, 2010, for annual Block Party. Carried.

After discussion, motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to set Public Hearing for Code of Ethics for Wednesday, September 1, 2010 at 6:45 p.m., preceding Regular Monthly Meeting. Carried.

Discussion on resolution for Scott Air Compressor Filling Station, which is now housed at A.B. Shaw Firehouse. Mellenville Fire Company has sent letter requesting this to be housed there, as A.B. Shaw is receiving one of its' own. Town owns this. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve same, with stipulation that other fire companies in Town be able to use same. Carried, with Councilman Johnston abstaining.

GAR Report – Councilman Johnston – Reported that all is going well in Assessors' Office with the updating of pictures. Almost complete and GAR has information. Assessors are keeping in touch with GAR and following their recommendations.

New York Rural Water – Nathan Chess – Would like to invite Steven Winkley of New York Rural Water Association to give short presentation at September Board Meeting. Has given Mr. Winkley permission to begin some background work.

Letter received from the County regarding bridge on Stone Mill Road – has been red-flagged – will be closed in 30 days. Councilman Van Deusen has suggested that Yates Road be made one-way .

Councilman Johnston – Meeting should be set up with Town of Greenport regarding Water Contract, which is to be renewed for coming year.

Councilman Johnston brought up subject of the “junk” on properties on Rte. #217 in Mellenville. This problem has been ongoing for many years and also in the Courts. Something needs to be done to make owners involved come into compliance.

The following correspondence has been received:

1. Betsy Cashen and Abigail Cashen – Construction of tennis backboard.
2. Mariner Tower II – Re: A T & T Tower
3. E-mail from NYS Town Clerks' Association – Re: Change at Dept. of Ag. & Markets on Dog Licensing
4. Jeffrey Gaylord, Richard Viebrock and David Carl – Interested in Mining Committee (Re-zone)
5. Clear Channel Communications – Re: Billboards – Attorney Fitzsimons will meet with their representative.

These are available at Town Office for review.

Councilman Preusser – Spoke regarding Red Cross workshop held at the Churchtown Firehouse. 36 people attended this informational meeting. Will need more participation – information will be forthcoming.

Meeting opened to public –

Howard Brandston - Questioned who nothing has been done to correct the culvert on Catskill View Road . Superintendent of Highways LaMont responded that permits had to be given by NYDEC before any work could be done. They should be received this Thursday or Friday. Was a discrepancy in number of tons allowed by engineers for the Town and Mr. Brandston's engineers. Per Superintendent LaMont, this has to be in writing and this is what was done and received by him from engineers for the Town.

Mr. Brandston also questioned speed limits in Town.

He also brought up letting the public know what is going on with the new firehouse for A.B.Shaw Fire Company. Should at least have preliminary plans available for public review.

Michael Brandon – Gave credit to Highway Department for nice paving job in Hamlet.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel at 8:45 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to go out of Executive session at 9:10 p.m. Carried.

After discussion, motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to follow recommendation of Superintendent of Highways LaMont and give salary adjustments to two individuals in Highway Department due to completion of training on equipment and also completion of probationary period. Employee #1 will have a new rate, effective 08/06/2010, of \$14.03 and employee #2 a new rate of \$13.55, effective 07/04/2010. This is the final change until the end of the year when changes will be voted on for new 2011 Budget. Revised personnel policies for all employees for the next fiscal year will also be done. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept “draft” of July 2010 Financial Report and “final” January to June 2010 Financial Report. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$26,262.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$604.73, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB Fund bills, totaling \$22,592.96, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no DA Fund bills.

Water District A Fund bills, totaling \$6,403.85, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow Account – Mariner Tower bills, totaling \$481.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow Account – Homeland Tower bills, totaling \$929.50, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, at 9:55 p.m., on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned in memory of Howard Montague, Assessor for the Town for 18 years, John Millar, Assessor for the Town for 10 years, Erwin Schneider, Town Justice for 20 years and Bradford Race, Esq. former resident of the Town and Village of Philmont for service to the State of New York for many years. Carried.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____