

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

August 09, 2012

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 by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent

Kathleen Cashen	Councilwoman
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Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept minutes of previous joint meeting with the Village of Philmont on July 09, 2012, public hearing on July 12, 2012 on proposed zoning laws and Regular Monthly Meeting on July 12, 2012. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Department has been repairing broken edges and uneven spots on Stottville Road, preparing for chip-sealing. Repairing dirt roads in all zones – have not been able to grade dirt roads because of dryness.

Mowing roadsides in all zones

Paved Orchard Mills, Michael Drive and Pleasantview Drive.

Mario has been keeping parks mowed and trimmed and looking good.

End of report.

Building Inspectors' Report received and on file for review.

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

Committee Reports

Economic Development – No Report

Agricultural Committee – Peter Reiss – The Columbia County Planning Board recommendations were circulated to members of the Committee. Recent TCI fire elicited many farming and agricultural related concerns. Documents were attached and are available for review by anyone interested.

Following final passage by the Town Board of the proposed changes to the Zoning laws, the Committee will put together a document that highlights the key changes that farmers may be interested in and distribute that within the Town’s farming community.

Historic Preservation Committee –Read by Supervisor – Committee met August 3rd at A.B. Shaw Firehouse. Main topic of discussion was the organization of a gathering featuring Dr. Francis Griggs and/or John Testa.

Dr. Griggs is a world expert of Squire Whipple and his iron bridges and John Testa wrote a study which led to the dismantling of a Whipple Bowstring Truss Bridge in Johnstown, New York and the reconstruction of the bridge on Union College campus. The gathering is scheduled to take place in the first week of September.

Another topic of discussion was the route of the Albany Post Road through Claverack, before and after the construction of the Shaw Bridge. Sal Cozzolino gave update about Shaw Bridge that he is writing for **Columbia County History & Heritage** magazine published by Columbia County Historical Society.

Correspondence

Correspondence from Building Inspector regarding request from Thomas Holmes.

Letter from Supervisor to Hudson City School District.

Col. Co. Bd. of Elections – State & Local Primary – Thursday, September 13, 2012.

Information from Columbia County Economic Agriculture Committee.

Recommendations from Columbia County Planning Board for proposed zoning law.

Letter from Supervisor – Re: Hudson River Estuary/Mohawk Basin Grant application.

Correspondence from Philmont Library – collecting school supplies to assist families in need.

Letter from Supervisor to Greenport Rescue Squad.

Letter of resignation from Michele Fuchs.

Letter of resignation from Stanley Koloski for New York State Retirement purposes. Has requested he continue this part-time position as a “retiree” be considered. He has verified this information with New York State, and, because of his age, this arrangement is possible, with no restrictions in the hours/salary he is currently involved in.

E-mail from Colin Stair regarding rezoning.

Complaint from Brenda Shufelt regarding neighbor’s property.

Meeting August 14, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Columbia/Greene Community College sponsored by Chris Gibson on Broadband. Meeting for Supervisors, but others may attend.

Town Board Reports

Councilman Johnston – Discussion ongoing on Claverack School building. Viewed other plans and what possible goals can be reached.

Councilman Preusser – Park going well. Session will end August 17th. Brett Holmes, Director of Summer Youth Program doing great job.

Well-head Protection Overlay Area – Along with Councilwoman Cashen, set up meeting for involved and interested parties. Among those attending were Town of Greenport Water Superintendent, Columbia County Health Department, representative from Columbia County Planning and Economic Board and Town Zoning Review Committee and Economic Development Committee. State Health Department could not attend.

Water Department – Walked on property where Town of Greenport water supply is.

Attended meeting at Columbia County Soil and Water with Superintendent of Highways, Louis LaMont on Columbia County Flood Mitigation Grant Program– Two projects from Town included: Project #12 – Hollowville Creek Stream Bank Restoration and Gravel Bar Removal -\$20,562.00 and Project #13 – North Creek Stream Bank Restoration Flood Debris Removal - \$24,417.00.

Attended meeting across river – Capital Region Sustainability Plan for Cleaner Greener Community - Several topics including Energy, Economic Development, Climate, Food Systems, Land Use, Water Transportation and Sewer. Eight to Ten Counties attended. Another workshop planned for September 15th at Hillsdale Library.

Conservation Advisory Council meeting September 25th at Trinity Church.

Supervisor Andrews – Received about \$150,000.00 in reimbursements from Hurricane Irene storm, plus water line repair due to storm. Highway Fund has been paid back for loan to do the repairs.

Sent letter to Greenport Rescue Squad asking if they would guarantee to stay in Philmont if \$90,000.00 is appropriated in next year's budget, an increase of \$35,000.00.

Special thanks to Michele Fuchs for all her service and willingness to continue to assist with bookkeeping. She has been great asset to Town.

County – Homeless shelter moving forward, making sure any agreements meet needs.

TCI fire – Chain of events shared at County Board Meeting with officials from State and County present to answer questions. All air quality tests came back negative, but ability to communicate information to public inadequate. County will move forward in some type of reverse 911 system. Emergency Management Office has two weeks to bring a proposal and Special County Board Meeting will be held to enable action.

Proposed Motions/Resolutions

We will be continuing public hearing time for new Zoning Revisions.

After discussion, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to change next Regular Board Meeting to September 10th, 2012, due to Primary Election. Carried

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept July draft financial reports, January – July 2012 draft financial reports and January – June 2012 final financial reports. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept resignation of Stanley Koloski, Building Inspector, effective August 23rd, 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept resignation of Michele Fuchs, effective August 10th, 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to post job opening for Building Inspector and Deputy Clerk. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to rehire Michele Fuchs as part-time bookkeeper until further notice. Carried.

After discussion and information from Attorney Fitzsimmons, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to purchase new truck for highway department as per amended agreement. The truck will be a 2013 International 7600 SFA 6 x 4 plow truck at a cost of \$136,849.00, with total cost of \$216,000.00, which includes equipment for truck (plow, wing, and sander). The agreement will be purchased under a five-year agreement, with the first payment in 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston for resolution increasing DB5112.2, Capital Outlay by \$100,000.00, to be taken from DB909, Un-appropriated Fund Balance. This is for highway improvements. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to reduce building inspection fees to \$715.00 for Thomas Holmes for construction of modern greenhouse to replace several small greenhouses and other structures. Carried. ZBA fees are separate and must pay application fee.

Motion by Councilman Johnston,, seconded by Councilman Preusser to hire Tad Rappelya, Esq. to represent Town of Claverack for Philmont Assessment Petition. Paul Goldman, Esq. is Village attorney in this action. Carried.

Other Business

Discussion on Schoolhouse Road land offer – 2.2 acres of land adjoining Town property under an estate. Have indicated that they would like to donate this property to Town. Highway Superintendent La Mont stated it consists of steep bank and streambed and only use would be protection for Town property. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated there would be minimal cost and expense. Title Search would be needed. Can walk the property before making decision. Assessed at \$41,000.00. Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to negotiate and perhaps the owner would pay for Title Search. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – Sal Cozzolino mentioned letters of support for Shaw Bridge Grant application. Will be sending more material with Town Board support letter.

Peter Reiss – Questioned house trailer and property by Speed's Garage and also building on property across street. Councilman Weigelt stated he knows property owner and garage in question is going to be taken down. Contact has been made with owners of trailer property, which has been condemned, by Building Department.

Councilman Johnston brought up Henry Casivant's property, which has many more unregistered vehicles.

Councilman Weigelt stated Costa's property is improving and they are cleaning up the property.

Jim Nelson - Questioned Rte. #9-H closing due to storms – no detour signs to guide people.

Neil Howard – Acting Superintendent at Taconic Hills Central School. Just wanted to stop by and introduce himself.

Ed Konow – Letter received from him at July Town Board Meeting. Wanted to know what easement process was followed when working on Water District installation. This was handled by Clough Harbour & Associates. Attorney Fitzsimmons will look into this.

Bill Blaauw – Similar problem as TCI fire a year ago in Town. Sometimes necessary to sit and wait for roads to be opened.

No further questions.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to go into Executive session at 8:05 p.m. to discuss litigation. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go out of Executive session at 8:10 p.m. Carried,

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept agreement with Clear Channel for removing sign boards, with a penalty stipulation of \$100.00 per week per sign if agreement not met. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss Personnel for Building Department and Town Clerk's Office. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to go out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$40,438.75, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$2,432.70, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$178,192.58, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$4,839.00, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Escrow bills.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preuser: _____

Town Clerk: _____