

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 10, 2011

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was held at the Town Hall, #386 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. This meeting had been postponed from the regular meeting night of February 03, 2011, due to weather conditions.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Robert Fitzsimms, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
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Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for approval of Philmont Fire District contract. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to approve **Local Law #1 of 2011, Exemptions for Senior Citizens**. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve **Local Law #2 of 2011, Exemptions for Elderly and Disabled**. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston, to accept minutes of Organizational Meeting of January 05, 2011. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of January 05, 2011. Carried.

Representatives from Tri-Form gave presentation. Town has bond agreement for road to be built to Town specifications as this property was formerly a major subdivision. This will no longer be that sub-division and will not require the same road specifications as it had. They are requesting the bond monies (financial security) to be released. Per Attorney Fitzsimmons,, Town can enter into an agreement and release monies. He will draw up a financial security agreement. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston for authority to draw up an agreement and authorize supervisor to sign agreement. Carried.

Dog Control Officer's Report received and on file in Town Office for review. There was no actions to report for the month of January.

Building Inspectors' Reports received and on file in Town Office for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE – Gretchen Stearns – Committee finished reviewing version 2 of the revised zoning code. After another meeting at the end of the month, consultant Nan Stolzenberg, will do final rewrites of both Zoning Code and Subdivision Law, which should be ready by March 3rd.

A separate committer will continue to work on the mining overlay. A sub-committee of the Zoning Review Committee has been appointed to look at revisions of the Highway code to bring the specifications in line with rural road standards. They plan to meet with Town engineers and Highway Superintendent , but the rest of the Zoning Code can be presented to the public as is.

Committee will write an “executive summary” of the proposed changes to distribute to the public and will set up a community informational meetings in April or May to discuss the changes. Then a public hearing will be set up.

The “executive summary” will detail major changes proposed, which follow the principles of “Smart Growth” and also reflect Claverack's vision and goals for the future as expressed in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE - Katy Cashen – In absence of Chairman Peter Reiss, report was given by Katy Cashen. Committee will be meeting again on February 24th.

Two committee members attended a Public Forum presentation of the Columbia County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board. Purpose of the forum is to encourage participation, particularly members of the farming community, in the creation of a countywide farmland protection plan. A state grant for the creation of the plan has been received by our County.

Basic purpose of the forums is to hear from the public about the current state of farming in the County, concerns, needs and visions of the future of farming in Columbia County. Future forums are scheduled for February 19th, March 3rd and March 19th.

A Survey for Producers (discussed at the forum) has been sent to the farming community, which is essentially the nature of the survey the Town Agricultural Committee has been working toward sending out to the farmers in the Town of Claverack. Rather than duplicating the County, the Committee will be sending letters to each requested participant in the Town to encourage participation in the survey. They have also requested information regarding those who respond in the Town.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE – Ian Stewart – Report read by Supervisor – Met February 3rd at Philmont Library and will continue to meet there on the first Thursday of each month. Thanked Highway Superintendent LaMont and Highway Department for cleaning up Shaw Bridge. Currently seeking grants to help stabilization and restoration of the bridge. Engineering Department at Union College has been contacted and may be of assistance. Mr. Cozzolino is working on developing a small map with information to be available to the public for driving or walking tours in the hamlet, which would list a brief historic overview of the more interesting historical houses in the Town. Would also like to petition the Town for space on the website to put some information up about the bridge and other projects.

It was reported that the roof of the old brick tavern building on the corner of Rte. #66 and #9-H has caved in.

COUNTY- Supervisor Andrews – Met with David Robinson and Dean Knox of the County regarding the bridge on County Rte. #16. Sight distance needs improvement. Public Hearings will be held.

Board of Elections is attempting to make changes in the Town of Claverack in regards to the election districts. One of the changes being considered is to have an election district housed at the Columbia County Nutrition site on Main Street, Philmont. The Mellenville Grange will no longer be one of the polling sites. There is also consideration being given to the combining of some of the districts. After discussion, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to send letter to Board of Elections that the Town is interested in being involved in any decisions being considered. Carried.

WEBSITE – COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Outlined parameters agreed on after discussion with Town Clerk. These are available at the Town Office for anyone interested to review. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen for prior approval by Town Board for information to be added to website other than the automatic information listed in the revisions. Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter received from Philmont Community Day Committee requesting support and donation for Philmont Community Day, scheduled for Saturday, July 09, 2011.

Information received from EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), providing building block programs and one-day workshops in eight different areas. Information received today, February 10th and application period opened on February 3rd and ends on February 23rd. Gretchen Stearns stated that there might be good technical assistance available for Economic Development Committee.

Consensus of Board was interest in #6 of the brochure. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to send letter of interest in regards to this. Carried.

No further correspondence.

REASSESSMENT – Charles Brewer – Councilman Johnston asked Mr. Brewer to give an update on the reevaluation by GAR. Assessors have received spread sheets completed for all six neighborhoods from GAR. Commercial accounts (approximately 100) are due this week for review. Assessors have reviewed and continue to review proposed new values. STAR and Agricultural exemption forms are being received and processed daily. They had been sent out in early December. GAR will establish public hearings in the near future. Assessors continue to coordinate the revaluation efforts with the GAR staff and field review is virtually complete. Now waiting for utility values from Albany Office of Real Property to be incorporated into the files. The Town application for AID, as well as the plan for cyclical reassessment, has been reviewed by Mr. Jacobs of ORPS and the formal copies were sent on December 22, 2010, well in advance of the due date.

Meeting held with Mr. Barnett and both Claverack Town and Village of Philmont Boards. Information packets received and very informative discussion.

Assessors continue to work closely with the GAR staff, especially David Barnett, and have developed a mutual respect and rapport. The GAR people are very professional and easy to cooperate with.

SKATEBOARD PARK –Councilman Johnston - Information will be forwarded to new Town engineering firm.

WATER – Councilman Johnston – Doing very well financially. New water meter has been received.

PHILMONT VILLAGE BOARD –Councilman Johnston – Discussion on concept of Philmont/Mellenville Fire Companies shared services/merger and also discussion on EMS services. Requested to be liaison representative from the Town Board in these discussions. Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Supervisor Andrews to approve this. Carried. Letter will be sent to Philmont Fire Company, Mellenville Fire Company, Philmont Village Board and the Greenport Rescue Squad with this information.

HIGHWAY – Councilman Weigelt – Department working on some of the older equipment when time permits.

YOUTH – Councilman Preusser – This is last week of ski program.

INSURANCE – Councilman Preusser – Insurance packet have been put together for anyone interested. Those who have called and voiced interest will be contacted to pick up information from the Town Office. They should be returned by the middle of March.

STREAM CLEAN-UP – Councilman Preusser – Work completed and check received.

TRAFFIC SAFETY – Councilman Van Deusen – Discussion at meeting on Yates Road and possibility of making it one-way. Fire companies have concerns.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept Preliminary Financial Report for January and February. Carried.

Discussion on changing date of Monthly Meeting to the 2nd Thursday of each month. Motion by Supervisor Andrews seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to approve this change. Carried. Notice will be given to newspaper that this change will begin next month.

Planning Board position – After discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Supervisor Andrews to appoint Brian Goodrich to the open position on the Planning Board. Councilman Johnston and Councilman Weigelt presented the name of James Keegan for the position, both stating that he had the experience that would be beneficial. Voting in favor of motion were Supervisor Andrews and Councilman Van Deusen. Voting against the motion were Councilman Johnston and Councilman Weigelt. Councilman Preusser abstained, stating he would like to speak to individuals again to get information from them and be more comfortable with his decision. Motion did not Carry.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, to appoint Steve Hook as Chairman of the Planning Board for the Year 2011. Carried. Resolution #21 of the Organizational Meeting had been postponed until the appointment had been made by the Board.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept the Emergency Plan for the Town of Claverack as revised. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

Howard Brandston - Columbia Land Conservancy held meeting January 31, 2011. Very informative. May be good idea to appoint someone to Conservation Advisory Council. Would be pleased to volunteer to work on this.

William Blaauw – In regards to information earlier on the Election Districts. Years ago changes were made and Town did have input in the decisions made.

Attorney Fitzsimmons asked about the Mellenville Union Cemetery. Mr. Blaauw said State Division of Cemeteries is working with Workers' Compensation regarding cemeteries. There will be a meeting between Mellenville Union Cemetery and the Town Board in June.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$2,599.67, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$730.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DA bills, totaling \$1,612.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$55,985.97, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$9,266.40, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow Account bills, totaling \$730.46, were audited and ordered paid from the accounts.

There being no further business to be brought before the board, on motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____