

TOWN OF CLAVERACK
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

February 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, immediately following the public hearing on dog licensing, by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Worked three small snow, sleet and freezing rain storms.

Replaced two culvert pipes on Catskill View Road. Worked on ditching on Van Deusen and Tipple Roads. Removing dead trees on Prach Extension, Prach, Bate and Tishauser Roads.

Water – Completed the bore and pulled through the new water line on Stonemill Road that was damaged in the Irene flood. Within the next two weeks the connections should be completed.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Review Committee – Chris Post – Committee is through with text. Ridge-line proposal has been taken out of the text.

Committee being set up to go over well-head protection overlay. Will not be changed for the new law for now. Can be changed at a later date.

Agricultural Committee – Peter Reiss Sample sign “**An Agricultural Community**” shown. Information posted in a number of farm stores in the Towns of Claverack, Chatham and Greenport regarding the Agricultural Disaster Efficiency Program. Also posted on the NFC listserve. This program is available to

assist farms and on-farm producers in New York State damaged by Hurricane Irene and/or Tropical Storm Lee. Assistance is available for electric and natural gas equipment and systems containing energy efficient measures up to \$100,000.00 per farm.

NYSERDA will fund 100% of the costs minus other aid or insurance settlement (s) received for the same equipment or systems.

Members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee are planning to participate in the “pre-briefing” of the draft County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan in Ancram on February 13.

Bob Preusser and Peter Reiss are planning to attend the “Small Farm Summit” in Voohresville on February 29th. The Summit is an interactive meeting with an opportunity to take part in discussion and provide feedback, both locally and across the State.

Next meeting is planned for March at 421 Roxbury Road. Specific date is dependent upon the developing status of the Draft Zoning Law and the County Agricultural Protection Law.

Historic Preservation Committee Met February 3rd at 3:30 p.m. There will be a walking tour of the east side of Claverack, Rte. #23 on a Saturday in May during New York State Heritage Weekend. Members of committee will try to arrange a short interior tour of Claverack Elementary School with real estate listing agent. Tour will start at old A.B. Shaw Firehouse.

Other potential walks will include a walk along the B & A railroad trail and also something related to the Shaw Bridge.

Will be preparing a grant proposal for \$10,000.00 to the Preservation League of New York State to complete a study on what needs to happen to restore the Shaw Bridge to be resubmitted in May by Ian Nitschke and is confident this project will be funded.

Discussed an e-mail from Arcasia Publishing to put together a book on Claverack. Committee did not feel it should be pursued.

Met on January 13th to discuss status of Shaw Bridge with John Testa, a civil engineer and expert on Whipple bridges, who wrote a thesis on this type of bridge, one that was moved and restored on the campus at Union College. Shaw Bridge is this type of bridge. Felt restoration of Shaw Bridge might cost under \$100,000.00, depending on volunteer services. Stated it is not possible or cost effective to restore bridge to be able to support car traffic. Committee agreed any restoration would be limited to foot traffic.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilman Preusser – Liaison to Zoning Review Committee – As reported, ridge-line in not incorporated in new law. Sub-Committee being set up to handle controversy over well-head protection area.

Conservation Advisory Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 29th, 7:00 p.m. at the Churchtown firehouse.

Farming for the Future Program will be held on Saturday, February 25th, at Taconic Hills School from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Proceeds will support Taconic Hills H.A.R.V.E.S.T.

Gave report on FASNY Program, which received 4.3m grant from Home Security Program for higher education learning plan. Will try and get more information on this program.

Donation from Claverack Task Force of \$1,100.00 to Mellenville/Philmont Food Pantry, which has had to extend the original boundaries outside the area to include other areas within the Town.

Accountant is finishing up the audit for Churchtown LOSAP Program. Should be completed in 30-60 days.

Town will be receiving a cost comparison with NYMIR and will review Selective. Rich Nesbitt, our present agent, will have comparison for March meeting.

Contract for skateboard park is complete.

Councilman Weigelt – Town Board is going to be looking over Town buildings to see where improvements are needed.

Millbrook Bridge – At present time, looking into ideas for the repair of the bridge.

Economic Development – Ginsberg's was looking to move, but has decided to stay in the area.

Councilwoman Cashen – ZBA and Planning Board - Will be working to improve information given to assist applicants in working through application process..

Environmental Management Council – received grant from Greenway to provide GIS map training to Town planning and zoning board representatives. More information will be provided once grant is accepted by County.

Communications Committee – Will be meeting on February 13.

Supervisor Andrews – Philmont – Meeting next Monday. Thanked all volunteers for assistance during recent house fire.

Finance – Based on reassessments, Town entitled to approximately \$15,000.00.

Columbia County Soil and Water has given Town \$12,000.00+ for stream clean-up.

County – Town will be able to have tennis backboard that is presently at the former Ockawamick School.

PROCLAMATION – March is colorectal cancer awareness month. Free testing kits available at Columbia County Department of Health.

Exemption forms are due in Assessors' Office by March 1st.

County did clear out Boston/Albany trail. Now open and covers over 2 miles, from Rte. 9-H to Courts Lane.

Call received today from Bill Cotton of New York State Department of Transportation, regarding bridge on Rte. #23. Looking to replace deck, which will be a 4 to 6 week project. Closing the bridge completely would be a problem for EMS.

Procurement Policy – Will be getting draft from Town Attorney.

Time extended for appointing members to Ethics Board. (5 members).

Councilman Johnston – Workshop – Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to send letter to all committees appointed by Town Board and including Town Board members that any correspondence, letter or e-mail, pertaining to Town business, be filed in the Town Office. Carried.

Security System and telephone – Michele has been contacting both and should be completed within next two weeks.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to approve receipt of Draft financial report for January 2012, draft financial report for January 2011 – December 31, 2011. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for a rate reduction as of October 2012 for residents within the water district affected by the water main break until the water line is fixed, due to the inconvenience of the Town not being able to provide softened water for them. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for approval of proposed Dog License Law with changes as explained at public hearing. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston to appoint Kim Keil to Zoning Board of Appeals, replacing Norma Barnard, who has resigned. This term is to December 31, 2016. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to appoint R. Scott Cole to Planning Board, replacing Albert “Jay” Brousseau, who has resigned. This term is to December 31, 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to amend Resolution #43 of 2011, adopted December 29, 2011, deleting erroneous information. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to set up additional workshop meeting for Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. at Town Office Building. Carried.

Motion by Councilwoman Cashen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to give approval to Town Supervisor to submit letter to Senator Saland with a member item request for a sidewalk and water line extension down Church Street to Town Park, with fire hydrant at entrance to Park. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to give approval to Town Supervisor to submit letter to NYSDOT, based on a draft provided by Economic Development Committee. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, changing the Town Board liaison for the Court to Michael Johnston with deputy liaison Robin Andrews. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept letters from anyone interested in sitting as a member of the Board of Assessment Review. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser that any office equipment deemed obsolete be declared surplus and disposed of in the appropriate manner. Carried.

Meeting opened to public:

“Reg” Conklin – Dog Control Officer - Stray and abandoned dogs thought to be in Town of Claverack were actually in the Town of Ghent. No one knows owners. Can be released to owner for a charge.

Ian Nitschke – Shaw Bridge proposal due by May 7th. Needs evidence of support – wants Board support of this. Also needs Senators, Assemblymen and neighbors support.

“Bill Blaauw”- Sees taxi cabs in area all the time. Who is paying for this transportation?

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$32,827.32, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$1,071.46, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$14,081.24, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$7,894.33, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no escrow account bills.

There were no Highway Da account bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____