

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

January 05, 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 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews. This meeting followed the 2011 Organizational Meeting.

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 Town

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting of December 01, 2010. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Public Hearing of December 01, 2010, on Local Law #3 of 2010 – Dog Licensing and Animal Population Control. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Public Hearing of December 29, 2010, on Churchtown Fire Company Contract. Carried, with Councilman Preusser abstaining.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of Year-End Meeting of December 29, 2010. Carried.

Report of Superintendent of Highways -Louis LaMont – Ditching on Old Barrington and Oak Hill Roads. Repairing rough spots in all dirt roads. Worked two (2) snowstorms and one (1) ice storm. Men did excellent job, working many hours. Reconditioning a trailer for future use.

Requested permission to go out for bids for box culvert for Stonemill Road. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to authorize same. Carried.

No further report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ZONING REVIEW COMMITTEE – Chris Post – Have identified incomplete parts. Only met once last month. Will be meeting on January 13th and 27th. Information will go to consultant after the meeting on the 13th – then should be ready for the public.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – Peter Reiss – Next meeting set for tomorrow evening. Have been discussing survey that will be distributed to farmers and this will continue tomorrow evening.

HISTORIC COMMITTEE – Ian Stewart – Read by Supervisor Andrews – Next meeting will be January 06, 2011. Thanked Highway Department for Webb Road bridge cleanup.

YOUTH/RECREATION COMMITTEE – Read by Supervisor. Met on December 15, 2010. Discussed creating schedule of events for year, creating a newsletter, community input, new ideas for programs and activities, future of the Commission, funding for new programs and activities.

GRANTS – Councilman Van Deusen – Meeting in December cancelled. Working on one project – Extension of sidewalks and water to Town Park. Will be meeting on 4th Tuesday of January (January 25th).

MINING – Councilman Van Deusen – Met last night. Working on wording, using the Town of Ghent as guide, eliminating some of the wording and adding some.

TRAFFIC SAFETY – Councilman Van Deusen – Will be meeting the end of this month.

WEBSITE – COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE – Sent letter and will discuss this at workshop meeting this month.

PHILMONT – Supervisor Andrews – Former Stewart's will be a co-op. **Peter Reiss** stated this will help the farming community. Emphasis will be on nutrition.

FINANCE – Supervisor Andrews – Our tax rate, between County and Town, going down.

REASSESSMENT – Councilman Johnston – Report read report. GAR continues to send “one liners – Spread sheets completed for all six neighborhoods in Town. Commercial accounts due this week for review. Assessors have and continue to review proposed new values. STAR and Ag. Exemption forms arriving for processing daily. GAR will establish public hearings in near future. Continue to coordinate the revaluation efforts with GAR staff, with field review basically complete. Waiting for utility values from Albany Office of Real Property. Town application for Aid, as well as the plan for cyclical reassessment, has been reviewed by Bob Jacobs of ORPS and formal applications sent o December 22, 2010, well in advance of due date.

Continue to work closely with GAR staff, especially David Barnett, and developed mutual respect and rapport. GAR people very professional ad easy to cooperate with.

BUILDINGS – Councilman Johnston – So far no leaks after roof repairs on Town Hall/Town Court building.

Key FOB’s for alarm system are in. Will be setting up user meetings.

WATER – Councilman Johnston – Big water meter ordered.

Also, “Policies and Procedures” for Town employees is being worked on.

HIGHWAY- Councilman Weigelt – Equipment in “great” shape. Garage cleaned up.

Councilman Van Deusen questioned mandate for changing of road signs to all capital letters. Nothing being done for the present time.

STRAM CLEAN-UP – Councilman Preusser – Working through paperwork.

INSURANCE – Councilman Preusser – Decrease in Town premium over last year. Will still be putting packets together for other agents interested in quoting. Will be ready for February meeting.

Councilman Preusser also reported that contracts for fire companies have been sent to attorney Fitzsimmons.

No further reports.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser, to accept Final Financial Report for January – November 2010. Carried.

Supervisor Andrews reported information received from Association of Towns. Copy available to anyone interested.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser to set the following meetings:

Workshop - January 24, 2011 - Monday – Town Office Building – 7:00 p.m.

Special Meeting - January 26, 2011 – Wednesday – Town Office Building – 6:30 p.m. – Purpose is to interview Planning Board applicants.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to set the following Meetings:

February 02, 2011 – Wednesday – Town Hall – 7:00 p.m. – Purpose of meeting is Philmont Fire District Contract - \$34,681.00.

February 02, 2011 – Wednesday – Town Hall – 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Local Law #1 of 2011 - Exemptions for Senior Citizens.

February 02, 2011 – Wednesday – Town Hall – 7:00 p.m. – Public Hearing on Local Law #2 of 2011 – Exemptions for Disabled Citizens.

Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting will follow Public Hearings.

Motion carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt for Special Meeting With GAR and the Town of Claverack and Village of Philmont, Monday, February 07, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, #836 Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Carried.

E-mail received from Chad Weckler, a Livingston resident regarding vehicle and truck traffic. Would like to see a meeting of Columbia County Board of Supervisors and NYSDOT to speak of a plan for the future.

Meeting opened to public:

Peter Reiss – Regarding bridge on County Rte. 11 {Martindale Road} as discussed at previous meetings. Is there possibility of raising bridge? Foundation too deteriorated and could not be moved. It has also been found out that the bridge is owned by the State, not the County. **Councilman Johnston** stated this should be addressed – perhaps letter to our State representatives, asking for their assistance. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to follow through with this. Carried.

“Sal” Cozzolino – Regarding Boston/Albany trail – Letters sent to adjoining property owners, but were also sent to owners from Mellenville to Ghent – Many phone calls received. Should have been sent to those property owners from Courts Lane to Rte. 9-H.

Chris Post – Regarding Reassessment – After reassessment, will property owners have to reapply for exemptions? No – the rules will not change – STAR exemptions will carry over. Seniors will have to reapply each year as in the past. Veteran’s Exemptions will also carry over.

Greenport Rescue Squad representatives – Discussion on “lack of financial support” from the Town. They expected to receive the total that would have been allocated to both the Philmont and Greenport Rescue Squads. Consensus of Board was to meet with representatives during a workshop where the Board can devote full-time to discuss this problem. Will try to meet during March workshop.

No further comments.

General A bills, totaling \$2,724.50, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B bills, totaling \$175.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$1,366.98, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Water bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser, meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Date _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____