

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

January 05, 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 at 7:15 pm., immediately following the 2012 Organizational Meeting, by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence in recognition of the untimely death of Daniel Barrett, a member of the Town of Claverack Board of Assessment Review, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

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

Absent:

Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
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Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of Year-End Meeting of December 29, 2011. Carried

Discussion on Local Law #1 of 2012, regarding the addition of kennel rates and charges for the same dogs being picked up by Dog Control Officer several times. Public Hearing will be set up for 7:00 p.m. on February 09, 2012, preceding the Regular Monthly Meeting, if Attorney Fitzsimmons will have paperwork ready.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Cleaning culvert pipes of leaves and debris in all zones. Cold patching in all zones. Replacing street signs. Working on trucks in shop.

Completed stream clean-up for the year.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Revision Committee – Met last night. Councilman Preusser attended meeting. Another meeting scheduled for January 26, 2012. Have usually been meeting the 1st and 4th Thursdays of each month. Met with Superintendent of Highways LaMont and new representative from engineering firm.

Economic Development Committee – Read by Supervisor.

Agricultural Committee – Peter Reiss – Met on January 04, 2012 with discussions on:

- “Agricultural Community” signs – Design is being developed.
- Slaughter house status
- A zoning matter
- Status of the County Farm Protection Law being drafted
- Town of Claverack Farmland Protection Plan vs. assistance to farmers regarding zoning law
- A briefing to the members present on the “Planning for Agriculture” workshop
- Cooperative non-seasonal market facility for local farmers
- Secondary fallback crops for revenue

Gave information on slaughterhouse, which is proposed for a site at the Commerce Park. Project appears to be on hold at this time.

Responding to a request from Zoning Committee, members researched New York State Department of Agriculture designation of land related to a mining overlay proposal.

Columbia County Agricultural Farmland Protection Plan is progressing, with a draft plan for public comment probably available by early spring.

Following discussion, committee members concluded it makes more sense to put efforts toward assisting local farmers to become familiar with specific provisions of the new Zoning Law once developed than to develop a specific Town of Claverack Right to Farm Law or Farmland Protection Plan.

Peter reviewed notes taken at “Planning for Agriculture” workshop, also attended by Councilman Preusser.

Subject of cooperative non-seasonal market facility for local farmers explored. It was agreed that such a facility would probably help in the marketing of local products.

Next meeting is planned for February with specific date dependent upon the developing status of the Draft Zoning Plan and the County Agricultural Protection Plan.

Historic Committee – Report given by Sal Cozzolino. Russ Pomeranz new chairman. Meeting to be held next week at home of Ian Nitschke. Planning for John Testa to come and give report on thesis he wrote on Shaw Bridge.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you received for allowing storage in former highway garage of float from Hudson parades.

Disaster Plan received for Red Mills Dam.

Philmont Minkler-Seery American Legion Post #252 – Thanked Town for assistance on Memorial Day Parades in past years. Purchased a new PA system and new speakers. Donated their system and speakers to Claverack Town Park for benefit of everyone that might need their use at the Park. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser to write letter of appreciation for this donation. Carried.

TOWN BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilman Preusser – Attended “Planning for Agriculture” workshop with Agricultural Advisory Committee Chairman, Peter Reiss.

Meeting at Churchtown Firehouse 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Andrews Welcomed Katy Cashen as Board member. Looking forward to working together with liaisons.

On County level, Pat Grattan elected Chairman of Board of Supervisors with Kevin c Donald as Deputy. Position of Fire Coordinator not voted on. Will be brought up again next Wednesday.

Discussion on declaring some highway equipment as surplus to put up at auction with minimum bids:

1. #17 – 2001 GMC Pickup truck – 1GTHK29U41E301082
2. #18 – 1971 GMC Van – PS342F114971
3. #41 – 1992 International Dump Truck – 1HTGEA2R2NH423952

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Johnston to designate the above equipment as surplus to be sold at auction. Carried.

Discussion on hydrofracking. Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to support Town Home Rule lawsuit. Support for the home rule law’s filing of legal briefs will not cost the Town money. Supervisor Roxanne Marino of the Town of Ulysses stated that home rule is important for municipalities to preserve because it allows local governments to make informed decisions that would not be impeded by the state. She stated that she believes towns should be able to say for themselves in a way that is consistent with their comprehensive plan of what land uses are permitted and should be accepted in their towns. Carried.

Councilman Johnston – Mr. Robert Mansfield, owner of American Legion Building on Upper Main Street has donated the WW1 machine guns that were in front of the building on each side of the flagpole. A letter of appreciation will be sent to Mr. Mansfield.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Johnston to hold Public Hearing on Local Law #1, regarding charges for kennel licenses and charges for Dog Control Officer having to repeatedly pick up the same dog. Public Hearing will be 7:00 p.m., preceding Regular Monthly Meeting, on February 09, 2012 Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilwoman Cashen to accept 2011 draft December Financial Report, draft January – December Financial Report, and January – November Final Report for 2011. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to extend time to receive letters of interest for positions on ZBA, Planning Board and Code of Ethics Board to January 31, 2012. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Preusser for letter of support for Columbia County EMS CON and their Certificate of Need for the County. Carried.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for Superintendent of Highways LaMont and Attorney Fitzsimmons to work out specifics regarding March's land at the end of Schoolhouse Road. Carried.

Discussion regarding Clear Channel and billboard signs. Attorney Fitzsimmons stated there are not supposed to be any billboards – decided many years ago that they were supposed to be phased out. Attorney Nichols sent letters many years ago stating this. Will check with Attorney Fitzsimmons to see when last communication was made.

Meeting opened to public:

Peter Reiss – Home rule is important. Thanked Board for taking a stand.

Dennis Callahan – In Organizational Meeting, Dog Control Officer's appointment is for the year 2012 and not 2011.

Nathan Chess – Questioned water pipe repair due to flood. Could insurance pay or supervising engineers be held responsible? Has it been investigated? Superintendent of Highways LaMont stated it has been seven years since installation.

No further comments.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$2,643.86, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

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

Highway DB bills, totaling \$76.00, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Account bills.

There were no Water District A bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Councilwoman Cashen: _____