

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

July 14, 2011

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 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Absent:

Michael Johnston	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to accept minutes of previous meeting of June 19, 2011 after change on page 243 by Supervisor and also accept minutes of Special Meeting of June 21, 2011. Supervisor wants wording changed to: Quote – “There was discussion about what constituted a majority vote. Supervisor did not believe it carried and remainder of board did. Motion was declared carried by the Supervisor, pending confirmation with the attorney, and if it was not a majority vote, then a special meeting could be held. After speaking with the attorney, it was learned that it did not carry as this was not a quorum.” End quote.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – In the absence of Louis LaMont, report was given by Councilman Weigelt – Six culvert pipes replaced on Roxbury Road – cold patching in all zones. Roadsides being mowed in all zones.

Office trailer placed in Town Park for Summer Youth Program. This was donated by John A. Alvarez & Sons, Inc. for use during the six week program.

Box culvert for Stonemill Road is in the building stage, with an estimated date of 30 days.

Marty and Mario keeping Parks looking good.

End of report.

Building Inspectors' Report for June 2011 received and on file in Town Office for review.

Dog Control Officer's Report for June 2011 received and on file in Town Office for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Zoning Revision Committee – Chris Post – Have been having a lot of discussions, listening and making changes. Nathan Chess, Councilman Van Deusen, Louis LaMont and representative from Morris Associates are continuing to work on road design.

Economic Development Committee – No report.

Agricultural Committee – No report.

Historical Preservation Committee – Did not meet this past month. Next meeting is August 03, 2011 – 7:00 p.m. and next Hamlet walk is scheduled for September 17, 2011.

CORRESPONDENCE

Folder on front table for review – includes:

1. Letter from Greenport Rescue Squad – Beginning July 01, 2011 staffing no longer at Philmont location from 7:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.
2. Hudson River Valley Greenway – Grant received for \$1,500.00 for Comprehensive Plan.
3. Report from ORPS – Equilization Rate for Town now at 100%.
4. Letter from Albert Wassenhove regarding Veterans' Care and Resource Center.
5. Penflex – Regarding Churchtown Volunteer Fire Company Service Award Program.
6. Survey from Columbia County Environmental Management Council regarding a mapping program.
7. 2011 Field Trip Schedule for Summer Youth Program.

TOWN BOARD REPORTS

Mining – Councilman Van Deusen – No report. May be meeting twice in August.

Grant – Councilman Van Deusen – Did not meet.

Traffic Safety – Councilman Van Deusen – Did not attend meeting last month.

Councilman Van Deusen thanked Chris Post for work in putting together the grant application for the Comprehensive Plan.

County – Supervisor Andrews – County Board of Supervisors voted Houston Casualty for liability insurance, chosen by an agent from Albany and had best bid – Savings of \$200,000.00 for same coverage, and reimbursement for litigation.

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to waive the following fees for the telecommunications tower at Pine Have Homer: \$50.00 Building Permit application fee, \$25.00 Certificate of Occupancy and \$100.00 Application for Special Exception fee. Carried. This does not include engineering or legal fees.

Honor a Veteran ceremony this month on Monday, July 25th, will honor Howard Montague, who was a Town of Claverack resident and a Town Assessor for many years.

Philmont – Supervisor Andrews - Community Day was July 9th and a great success. Richard “Dick” Howard was given a special commemoration by Congressman Chris Gibson.

Website – Supervisor Andrews – Including Summer Youth Program Newsletter on website will be discussed later in meeting.

Finance – Supervisor Andrews – Budget process for next year will begin in the near future.

Letter sent to State government officials regarding Mellenville/Philmont fire companies sharing services. (Congressman Gibson, Senator Saland and Assemblyman Molinaro).

To be noted that the County is in need of volunteer drivers for the Meals on Wheels program. Would like Towns and Villages in County to take over the responsibility of drivers.

Victor Meyers, Esq., has been recommended by our attorney, Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq., to review contract between the Town of Claverack and the Village of Philmont regarding total exemptions of certain properties located with the Town of Claverack, but outside the Village of Philmont lines. These properties are the waste treatment plant and water supplies and include five parcels.

Highway – Councilman Weigelt – As yet, no report received from engineers on Millbrook Road bridge repair.

Youth – Councilman Preusser – Summer Youth Program began on July 5th

Insurance – Councilman Preusser – NYMIR is continuing the reimbursement check for another year.

Stream Cleanup – Councilman Preusser – Working to put information together to continue cleanup.

Skateboard Park – Councilman Preusser – Bids have gone out. Are due back at Town Office on July 22nd for public opening 10:00 a.m. at town Office Building.

Councilman Weigelt spoke with Columbia County Soil and Water regarding south-east side of creek on Roxbury Road by Cashen and Hess properties.. Erosion has advanced more into properties.

Thank you note to be written to Mr. Alvarez for donating use of office trailer for the Summer Youth Program.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept draft Financial Report for January - June 2011 and final report for January 2011 – May 2011. Carried.

Due to need for an additional counselor because of enrollment, motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, to accept recommendation from Director, Brett Holmes, of Kristen Delaney. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Preusser, to include the weekly Summer Youth Program newsletter on the website. Carried.

Discussion on Townwide Fire District consolidation. Consensus of Board is that they are interested in looking into this, would be interested in moving forward and taking lead role. One question is cost. Councilman Van Deusen stated this would not eliminate fire companies. It would involve fire services and EMS services.

Letter received from Greenport Rescue Squad regarding changing of services. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to let Supervisor write letter. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen to request quotes for stream cleanup with grant money received if Town hires outside contractors to do the work. Carried.

Motion by Supervisor Andrews, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen for mileage reimbursement rate to go to 55.5 cents per mile as of this meeting date. Carried.

Request received from soccer club to use soccer field at the Town Park for practices on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Problem exists because Park pavilion is in use one of the Tuesdays involved and every Thursday. Suggesting the Ockawamick property was a possibility or offer another night.

Meeting opened to public:

David Graziano – Good point brought out in minutes of Special Meeting of June 21, 2011. If there is no communication, the Town cannot run.

Richard Osborne – Regarding cutting of service hours in the Philmont facility by Greenport Rescue Squad. Twelve hours is a long time with no help nearby. Mr. Osborne was told there was no contract. Agreement was to go over it in one year and it has not been that long. Squad supposedly had a \$10,000.00 shortfall last year.

Cyndy Hall – Water issue on Old Lane. Feels six months is more than enough time for some results. Councilman Weigelt reported Superintendent LaMont has been in contact with State. He has shot grades for pitch. Is waiting to see if State will allow him to use their catch basin. She wants to be called with progress.

Ian Nitschke – regarding zoning and historic properties. Historic properties should be identified in new zoning. Tax benefits available when working on these homes for those who follow guidelines.

Nathan Chess – Churchtown Firehouse now officially a Red Cross Shelter. With approval of Board of Directors, Aaron of the Humane Society will be taking advantage of this with stand-alone shelter for animals – still working on the plans. County should be made aware of this plan.

No further comments.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$35,266.43, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$4,358.41, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB bills, totaling \$20,266.47, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District A bills, totaling \$75,750.57, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There were no Highway DA bills.

There were no Escrow Fund bills.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Van Deusen, meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____