

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

June 02, 2010

The Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Claverack, Columbia County, New York was held at the Town Hall, Rte. #217, Mellenville, New York. Meeting called to order by Deputy Supervisor, James Van Deusen, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Supervisor Andrews arrived shortly after beginning of 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
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Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to accept minutes of previous meeting of May 05, 2010. Carried. Councilman Van Deusen abstained.

Special recognition and Certificate of Achievement to Dustin Van Alphen as an Eagle Scout were not made due to his absence.

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Grading dirt roads in all zones – Cold patching in all zones – Ditched Miller Road II and ditched and changed collapsed culvert pipe on Wentzel Lane that has been closed since February. Built a turn-around on Schoolteacher Road. Mowing roadsides in all zones. Marty and Mario are doing a great job keeping the Parks mowed and trimmed and the buildings cleaned up for use.

Discussion regarding bridge on Millbrook Road, which has been closed until repairs made.

There was no Dog Control Officer's Report for May.

Building Inspector's Report and 2009 Year-End Report were received and in Town Office for review.

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES

Zoning Revision Committee – Gretchen Stearns – Reworking zoning code to make it more user friendly.

Reworking zoning code with two main objectives:

1. To make sure the code is an expression of the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.
2. To make it more user friendly by redoing the format, eliminating redundancy and contradiction.

In the May meetings, reviewed and commented on all sections which covered the general regulations for each of the 10 districts and 3 overlays.

Second draft should be ready by end of summer.

Agriculture Committee – Peter Reiss – Gave written report to Board members. An extended meeting was held with the Columbia Land Conservancy. Purpose of meeting was information gathering on the possibilities, processes of sourcing both expertise and funding, and agricultural-related information on other Towns in the County. Jim Cashen and Peter Reiss attended the “Buy Local” Conference hosted by Scott Murphy, who is on the Congressional Agricultural Committee.

Committee Meeting held on May 27, 2010. Peter Chairo has agreed to be part of the Committee.

No further Committee Reports.

Philmont – Supervisor Andrews – Town Board participated in Memorial Day Parade.

Dock will be built on farther side of reservoir by someone working on Eagle Scout designation.

County – Supervisor Andrews – Pine Haven Committee has narrowed architectural firms for new facility down to nine.

Youth Program hiring in the County will probably not be happening this summer.

Concerted effort being made to support use of lever machines for elections. Columbia County is one of the last counties that has not moved on this and will probably have to comply.

Letter of resignation from the Zoning Review Committee received from Linda Guntert. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser to accept. Letter to be written thanking her for services to the Town.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Skateboard Park – Councilman Johnston – Attorney Fitzsimmons is preparing bid for ramps and jumps for park.

Signs received to be posted, designating park areas as tobacco-free zones.

Highway Garage – Councilman Weigelt – Lights ordered for new installation. Possibility that Capital Reserve Fund may be able to be used for this purpose. Checking into this.

Discussion on bridge on Millbrook Road - awaiting engineering report Listed as a Historic Bridge – May be grant funds available to assist in repairs. Road to Town Garage being used by traffic since road closed due to bridge problem. Because this could be a problem for trucks going in and out of garage site and also a liability issue, motion by Councilman Johnston seconded by Councilman Weigelt to purchase and install gates at entrance. Carried.

GAR – “reval” – Many pictures being taken to update files. Presently, a problem with them being transferred, but GR working on this.

Suggestion by Steven Swenson, Stream Protection Specialist, to Councilman Preusser, to follow up with Army Corp of Engineers regarding debris collected as result of ice and wind storms and flooding the past couple of years. NYSDEC regulates clearing of streams by landowners. Town will ask for their support in influencing NYSDEC to assist in resolving this problem.

NEW BUSINESS

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Preusser, to accept recommendations of Summer Youth Program Director, Brett Holmes, for counselors for the program Sean Keeler moves up to Assistant Director and two new counselors hired. All other counselors from last year are returning. He requested that there be an opening reserved in case enrollment necessitates another counselor. Carried.

BOARD MEMBERS REPORTS

Councilman Weigelt – Working with Superintendent of Highways LaMont, to get lighting project completed. Also working on a 5-year plan for machinery and trucks.

Councilman Van Deusen – Traffic Safety Meeting held last week. No business or requests from the Town of Claverack.

Councilman Preusser – Meeting on June 10th in reference to Churchtown Firehouse being designated a Red Cross Emergency Shelter.

Board invited to attend ribbon cutting for new business EXTREME LIMITS, held this past Sunday.

Supervisor Andrews attended West Ghent Fire Company Annual banquet.

AUD meeting held with Town accountants, Michele Fuchs, Councilman Johnston and Supervisor Andrews. All went well.

Supervisor Andrews held exploratory meeting with NYSDOT representatives regarding speed in the Hamlet of Claverack. Will contact Regional representatives.

Gretchen Stearns questioned gravel from Town going to A.B. Shaw Fire Company – Questioned “donation” and “solicitation” – explained by Councilman as Town cannot solicit.

Nathan Chess – C L C – Water resources = Working on water resource mapping. Trying to get volunteer to speak with them regarding Town.

New A.B. Shaw Fire House – ZBA has exempt project from Site Plan Review and Zoning pursuant to Monroe analysis. Still have to have plans, building permit and abide by NYS Building Code.

Flag burning program by Boy Scouts, as discussed in prior meeting – VFW in Copake has offered them the day before Father’s Day for this project.

After short discussion, motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston for resolution for necessary transferring of funds in the 2010 Budget. Carried.

Information by Councilman Van Deusen that dental van from Columbia Memorial Hospital would like to set up at the Park the 3rd week in August. They have done this before to service local residence.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$32,609.01, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$2,016.93, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Highway DB Fund bills, totaling \$14,469.82, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

Water District 1-SW bills, totaling \$4,569.47, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

Escrow Accounts:

E. W. Birch, in the amount of \$130.00, was audited and ordered –paid from the account.

Mariner Tower, in the amount of \$941.00, was audited and ordered paid from the account.

Homeland Tower, in the amount of \$2,548.00, was audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Weigelt, meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____

