

TOWN OF CLAVERACK

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

March 03, 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 at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Robin Andrews, who led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present:

Robin Andrews	Supervisor
James Van Deusen	Councilman
Clifford Weigelt	Councilman
Michael Johnston	Councilman
Robert Preusser	Councilman
Louis LaMont	Superintendent of Highways
Robert Fitzsimmons, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
Mary J. Hoose	Town Clerk

Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Johnston to accept minutes of previous monthly meeting of February 03, 2010, after corrections and of the Special Meeting of February 25, 2010. Carried. On the second page of the meeting, the 10th paragraph should have stated that “ a list of Columbia County Board of Supervisors resolutions are available at County Meetings at 401 State Street, Hudson, New York for interested residents to review.” Also, on the third page, there is a typing error in the 3rd paragraph. It should read “West Ghent has corrected many of the problems.”

Report of Superintendent of Highways – Louis LaMont – Still cleaning up debris from the 2008 ice storm. Have worked 14 snow and ice storms with men putting in many hours. Trying to open ditches from the snow to keep water off roadways.

Cold-patched in two zones and repaired a washout on Catskill View Road.

Councilman Weigelt stated Highway Department doing a fantastic job.

Dog Control Officer’s Report for February received and on file in Town Office for review.

Board Members Reports:

Councilman Weigelt reported new lighting is almost ready for installation. Also reported that Town will get some funds from NYSERDA towards this.

Councilman Johnston reported specs for concrete work has been reviewed by Attorney Fitzsimmons.

Councilman Van Deusen attended meeting with West Ghent Fire Company.

Councilman Preusser also attended. The Fire Company has taken care of most of the problems. Columbia County needs to take care of the water problem. Business in the Commerce Park requires largest water source. It was noted that there is an RFP for a solution to the water problem, but this could take quite a period of time before all is done.

Councilman Preusser apologized to West Ghent representatives present for lack of communication. Rural volunteer fire companies have a recruitment problem. Have been talking of shared services in some form.

There is a meeting on March 27, 2010, 11:00 a.m., sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, with speakers to discuss Marketing and Distribution at the County level.

Councilman Van Deusen met with NYSDEC representatives on “No Burn Policy” Residents are allowed to use burn barrels to burn acceptable materials, such as paper. Leaves cannot be burned at any time unless on branches. From March 16 to May 16 there is no burning permitted whatsoever.

Supervisor Andrews – Met with representative from Mellenville Grange and worked on grant for new roof.

Attended Broadband expansion meeting.

Requesting quotes from a number of engineering firms – Attorney Fitzsimmons will work on RFP for this.

Grant Writers (now TGW) – Applying for NYSEDA grant.

No further reports from Board members.

ISO told those meeting at the West Ghent Firehouse that they will not be changing rating until December and by then new code may be available. State is behind, but rating is based on new rating changes not available yet. The Building Inspectors have not been made aware of the changes either.

Richard Nesbitt, Town Insurance Broker, has been working on renewal insurance policy with Supervisor Andrews and Councilman Preusser. Town will be receiving a yearly rebate check shortly from insurance carrier NYMIR.

Zoning Revision Committee – Draft should be available within week. Joint meeting with all boards has been rescheduled for March 25, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

Stewardship at Millbrook Road has been purchased by Tri-Form. Will be tax exempt. May be lots available on outside of property at a later date that will not be exempt. Have requested a transfer of bond over to new owner. Motion by Councilman Van Deusen, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to agree on transfer of same. Attorney Fitzsimmons will guide Town on this. Carried.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received and on file for review:

West Ghent Fire Company
Silver Star Families of America
Community Rescue Squad, Inc.
Correspondence from Ed Jacklin – Mellenville Volunteer Fire Company -
Request to house “compressor” that now is at A.B, Shaw Firehouse
for all companies in Town to use. A.B. Shaw received a grant for a new one.

ONGOING BUSINESS

Website – Mr. Jones is cooperating for transition at end of the month.

Volunteer Committees – At workshop, consensus was to leave open for 30 days for more names.

Grant Application to NYSERDA – Sent in for \$220,000.00 for solar panels for garage and Town Office. Is part of stimulus and not a matching grant.

Discussion on Climate Smart Communities – Consensus of Board was to come up with resolutions. Samples are available. Tabled until next meeting.

Outdoor wood boilers – Board should get information – should be written in zoning laws. Not a problem with DEC unless burning inappropriate materials. County recommends local Town’s do their own local law.

Noted by Councilman Weigelt that Board is still seeking additional members for committees.

Silver Star City Proclamation read by Supervisor Andrews. Will ask Gary Flaherty for guidance and Councilman Johnston will contact State American Legion.

Hold Harmless agreement discussed – Consensus of Board is to have this reviewed by Attorney Fitzsimmons.

Recent power outages – Emergency management Plan of County kept everyone up-to-date as to these outages.

Meeting opened to public:

Ian Nitschke – Complaints about power outages, especially NYSEG. Was told to contact power companies first; then, if no response or not satisfied, go to Public Service Commission.

Chris Post – Questioned whether existing information from website will be transferred? Yes.

Jim Cesternino, Chief of West Ghent Fire Company – Requested letter be read by Supervisor Andrews. Councilman Johnston commended Mr. Cesternino on the work he has done on the problems and rectifying them.

No further comments.

Noted that there is approximately \$6,800.00 in interest to go to Stewardship at Millbrook Road.

Superintendent of Highways LaMont requested an Executive Session for personnel. Motion by Councilman Johnston, seconded by Councilman Preusser for same at 8:30 p.m. Carried.

Motion by Councilman Preusser, seconded by Councilman Weigelt to go out of Executive session at 8:55 p.m. Carried.

General A Fund bills, totaling \$25844.99, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Fund bills, totaling \$3956.05, were audited and ordered paid from their accounts.

General B Escrow Account bills, totaling \$390.00, were audited and order paid from the accounts.

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

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Water A Fund bills, totaling \$6264.78, were audited and ordered paid from the account.

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, on motion by Councilman Weigelt, seconded by Councilman Johnston, meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Date: _____

Supervisor: _____

Councilman Van Deusen: _____

Councilman Weigelt: _____

Councilman Johnston: _____

Councilman Preusser: _____

Town Clerk: _____